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NO 7188 SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 1988 RAJAB 17, 1408 AH 18 PAGES 150 FILLS

THE WORLD THIS MORNING

31 killed
MOSCOW, (AP): Thirty-one people were killed in ethnic rioting in the Azerbaijani city of Sumgait, the state-run news agency Tass reported yesterday. It was the highest death toll the government has reported in ethnic violence since Mikhail Gorbachev came to power in March 1985. (See Page 3)

Family suicide
ATHENS, (AP): Three elderly sisters died and their brother was reported in critical condition yesterday after a family suicide in a seaside town near the capital, police said.

Arab summit
ALGIERS, (Reuters): Algeria and Tunisia have called for a special Arab summit to support the Palestinian uprising in Israeli-occupied territories.

Vernon Walters
ABU DHABI, (Reuters): Vernon Walters, US ambassador to the United Nations, said in a newspaper interview published here yesterday that Washington should listen to Palestinians to know their demands.

High-level talks
PARIS, (Reuters): France and the PLO yesterday held their first high-level talks since unrest broke out in Israeli-occupied territories. Foreign Ministry officials said.

Banks closed
PANAMA CITY, (Reuters): Panama's banking commission ordered all banks closed yesterday after moves by ousted President Eric Arturo Delvalle to freeze Panamanian assets in the United States. (See Page 3)

Shootout
BANGKOK, (UPI): A gun-duel yesterday at a Thai boxing stadium in Bangkok packed with over 8,000 fans killed three people and wounded eight others including one Frenchman, police officers said.

INSIDE

International	2,3
Kuwait-Gulf	4,5
Editorials	6
Events	7
Features	8,13
Business	9,12
Stocks	10,11
Classifieds	14
Urdu	15,16
Sports	17,18

پاکستان میں ایوانی اور
حکومت کے درمیان تاریخی
جھڑپیں
سویت فوجیں نے ماہ میں
والس جلی جاس کی سیدالکلی
بھارتی پنجاب میں انسانی خون
کی ہولی ۳۳ افراد ہلاک
بھگدیش میں صدر راشاد کی
پارٹی جیت گئی
تال باغیوں نے پتھر افرو
حکومت کے گھاٹ آباد
لاہور نامہ پڑھیں

WEATHER

PARTLY cloudy weather with a moderate northwesterly wind and a slight chance for scattered rain.
State of sea: moderate
High water: 2.00 am, 12.30 pm
Low water: 7.30 am, 7.30 pm
Sunrise: 5.49 pm
Sunset: 5.49 pm
Maximum temperature recorded:
Kuwait: 28°C 82°F
Ahmad: 21°C 70°F
Minimum temperature expected:
Kuwait: 23°C 73°F
Ahmad: 20°C 68°F
Fahala: 20°C 68°F
Minimum temperature recorded:
Kuwait: 15°C 59°F
Ahmad: 17°C 63°F
Fahala: 17°C 63°F
Maximum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 65 per cent
Ahmad: 72 per cent
Fahala: 75 per cent
Maximum humidity expected:
Kuwait: 40 per cent
Ahmad: 60 per cent
Fahala: 60 per cent

Extremist Sikhs massacre 34 people

KAHRI-SAHRI, India, March 4, (Reuters): Sikh gunmen massacred 34 people, mostly Hindus, in this Punjab village hours before Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi released Sikh high priests today in an attempt to thwart separatists in the north Indian state.

At least eight gunmen burst into the village in Hoshiarpur district just before midnight yesterday and sprayed bullets at 500 people watching a play for the religious festival of Holi.

Police said 25 Hindus and nine Sikhs were killed and 40 people wounded, six seriously. The gunmen stopped only when they had run out of ammunition, survivors said.

Three villagers escaped by diving into a well and clinging to pipes.

Agreed

One gunman climbed onto the roof of the temple where the play was staged and rained bullets on to the fleeing audience.

Sikh mechanic Joginder Singh who was shot in the leg said: "I was only spared because I agreed to shout 'Long Live Khalistan' at gunpoint."

Taxi driver Charanjit Singh said no women or children were killed because they were sitting apart from the men. He said the gunmen stayed at the village about an hour hunting down victims.

"It was hell. Bullets rained and people ran, screaming and jostling each other and then stumbling down as they were hit in the back," said Mahabir Prasad, head of the monastery in Kahri Sar, 80 miles (130 km) northwest of the Punjab capital of Chandigarh.

The Press Trust of India reported responsibility for the attack was claimed by the Khalistan Commando Force.

Concession

It was the worst massacre this year in Sikh-majority Punjab where extremists want a separate Sikh state called Khalistan (land of the pure). At least 312 people have been killed there this year compared with 1,200 in 1987 and 640 in 1986.

Hindu groups called for a general strike in Punjab tomorrow to protest against the killings. Police were put on alert in Punjab, neighbouring Hindu-majority states and Delhi where previous massacres have prompted Hindu-Sikh clashes.

Welcomed

"It is for the government to decide whether this is possible within the country or outside," head priest Jasbir Singh Rode told reporters.

Moderate Sikh leaders welcomed the release but former Punjab chief minister and hardliner Prakash Singh Badal said "peace cannot return unless the government removes other irritants." These include an end to the death of Sikhs in police custody, he said.

Officials said the government had not changed its stand about refusing to negotiate on Khalistan. The detainees were released to "test the response" of extremists, one official said.

The militants have given no indication whether they are willing to drop their demand for Khalistan and start talks with Rajiv.

A faction of the militant All India Sikh Students Federation said yesterday Sikh leaders who defied the line on Khalistan would be shot.

Ershad party wins in 'voterless' polls

DHAKA, March 4, (Reuters): President Hossain Mohammad Ershad's Jatiya Party won a landslide victory in Bangladesh's violence-marred elections but the opposition which boycotted the polls vowed today to topple him.

The Election Commission said Jatiya won 176 of the 219 seats so far declared from yesterday's election for the 300-seat Parliament. Eighteen Jatiya members had already been returned unopposed giving the party 194 seats.

"This was a voterless election where the results were tailored beforehand," opposition Awami League leader Sheikh Hasina said.

She said the 21-opposition alliance would intensify its campaign of strikes and protests launched last November to force Ershad to resign.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party leader Begum Khaleda Zia said the "farical election will belittle Bangladesh in the eyes of the world."



Rina Castelnovo, a freelance photographer, lies wounded with blood on her head as she receives medical attention in occupied West Bank. (Reuters wirephoto)

Talks held with Shamir, Assad

Shultz unveils US peace plan

DAMASCUS, March 4, (Reuters): US Secretary of State George Shultz left Syria for Cairo today after unveiling a formal Middle East peace plan to President Hafez Al Assad.

US officials travelling with Shultz said he had four hours of talks with Assad but there was no immediate word on the Syrian leader's reaction to the plan.

Aides to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who Shultz met in occupied Jerusalem, indicated Shamir opposed key elements of the US document which calls for direct Arab-Israeli negotiations and limited Palestinian autonomy.

The newspaper of Syria's ruling Baath Party said Shultz was bent on preserving Western interests in the Middle East rather than seeking peace.

Envoys

"It is important for America and its envoys to shake hands that throw stones," he said in reference to Palestinian youths confronting Israeli forces in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank.

Shultz presented a programme in writing, including a detailed time-table, to Shamir and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres at separate meetings before flying on to Syria and Egypt.

Authoritative Israeli sources said it called for an international meeting in Geneva in mid-April and direct Arab-Israeli negotiations in May for an interim agreement on Palestinian self-rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The talks between Israel and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian

delegation should be completed by October, when elections would be held in the occupied areas, and the accords implemented in Feb 1989 for a three-year period, the sources said.

Negotiations on a permanent settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict would begin this December regardless of progress on the talks for an interim agreement.

Dropped

Shamir aides declined to comment directly on the proposals but said he had not dropped his opposition to the holding of an UN-sponsored international peace conference and was against opening talks on a final settlement next December.

Shamir also favoured a five-year period for Palestinian self-rule instead of the three years proposed by Shultz.

"But the door is not closed. Mr Shamir will go to Washington March 14-16 when new ideas will be heard. It will be a crucial meeting but nothing of a 'take-it-or-leave-it' type," an aide said.

Israel Radio quoted Peres, who backs the US proposals, as saying the government should take a clear decision before the prime minister left for Washington.

Failure to do so meant elections should be called ahead of their scheduled November date, Peres was quoted as saying. The Shamir aide said election talk should wait until after the prime minister's Washington visit.

Shultz returned to Israel yesterday from London, where he emerged smiling and voicing optimism from talks with Jordan's King Hussein.

Man declared dead awakes to a new life

KNOXVILLE, Tennessee, March 4, (AP): A 71-year-old man who revived while his funeral arrangements were being made said Wednesday that he awoke to a new life.

"It's a different life when I came back," said Shirley Barnett, a retired coal miner and Baptist minister. "I had nothing but a heart full of love and joy for everybody."

Barnett, who was pronounced dead twice on Jan 21 after showing no signs of life for periods up to 45 minutes, answered reporters' questions from his wheelchair at a local hospital. Two of his doctors also talked about the episode.

"The first thing I remember was my daughter telling me I was at Park West ... She put it pretty bluntly that I had died," Barnett said.

On Jan 16, Barnett was admitted

Mine detonated

THE Kuwait Navy on Thursday detonated a mine discovered opposite the Kazma area.

Two Kuwaiti fishermen spotted the mine floating in Kuwaiti waters near where they were fishing. They notified the authorities who detonated the mine.

Army bars press as two more die in West Bank

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, March 4, (Reuters): Israeli troops shot dead two Palestinians and wounded several others today after the Army barred journalists from entering the occupied West Bank from Jerusalem.

Police earlier defused a car bomb a few hundred metres (yards) from US Secretary of State George Shultz's Jerusalem hotel as he met Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to present a formal Middle East peace plan in writing.

"It was a powerful device ... which would have caused great damage had it exploded," Jerusalem police chief Yosef Yehudai told reporters.

Fire

Military sources said an Army patrol shot dead an Arab and wounded another in Arrabah, near Jenin, when they were attacked by hundreds of residents, throwing stones, bottles and sticks.

Palestinian sources said Mohammed Ahmed Salah, 18, was killed and 15 people were wounded when soldiers opened fire on protesters in the village of Al Khader, south of Bethlehem.

In the Gaza Strip, the Army said an explosive charge was detonated in the Deir Al Balah refugee camp as an Israeli force passed by, slightly wounding four soldiers.

The shootings brought to at least 81 the Palestinian death toll in an uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip that began on Dec 9. About 1,000 Arabs have been wounded by Army gunfire and beatings. More than 200 Israeli soldiers and settlers have been injured, mostly by stones.

A correspondent driving south from Jerusalem to try to investigate the reported clash in Al Khader was turned back at an Army roadblock north of Bethlehem.

Army spokeswoman Major Ofra Preuss said journalists were barred from entering certain areas of the West Bank because military commanders feared riots after Friday prayers and believed the presence of cameras would inflame the unrest.

Security sources said the ban on reporters travelling north to Ramallah and Nablus and south towards Hebron would remain in force tomorrow.

The absence of reporters appeared to have no effect on the death toll or the level of violence.

Roadblocks

In the Gaza Strip, two Palestinians were shot and wounded in the Bureij refugee camp when protesters built roadblocks, burned tyres and stoned troops after Friday prayers, witnesses said. There were also demonstrations in the Mughazi camp and in Gaza City.

The registers at Gaza's Shifa and Ahli hospitals showed 17 patients wounded by beating or rubber bullets were admitted today alone.

Some foreign and Israeli journalists managed to travel in the West Bank despite the roadblocks by using side roads or dressing as Palestinians.

A reporter who reached Nablus said there were scattered clashes between demonstrators and troops. Local residents also reported violence in several villages around Nablus.

(Continued on Page 3)

US urged to reduce trade deficit

Kuwait to continue to invest in foreign securities

KUWAITI Finance Minister Jassem Mohammed Al Khorafi urged the United States on Thursday to take steps to reduce its trade deficit which he said was affecting world economic stability.

He also told Reuters in an interview that Kuwait, one of the world's biggest investors, would continue to use oil income to make long-term, diversified investments in foreign securities.

Khorafi said the US trade deficit, which totalled \$159.2 billion in 1987, was a major factor in fluctuations on world stock and currency markets.

Decisive

"The fluctuations are because of thoughts of whether the US is able to take in an election year certain decisive decisions to remedy the trade deficit," he said.

The deficit has helped to devalue the dollar against other major currencies, cutting the purchasing power of Kuwait and other oil exporting states since oil is priced in dollars.

"Certain decisions should be taken by the US, and once they are taken and are clear that

would be the time when the dollar would be more stable," Khorafi said.

He said the US trade deficit and attempts to reduce it were a major topic in talks which he held in January in Japan, which has a huge trade surplus with the United States.

Khorafi also said Kuwait's general policy was not to seek a management role in foreign companies in which it invested.

Estimate

But there could be exceptions depending on the size of Kuwait's stake, he said. In Spain, the London-based Kuwait Investment Office (KIO) has sought a management role in a large chemical firm in which Kuwait's interests now have a majority share-holding.

Kuwait has built a portfolio bankers estimate at some \$80 billion in stocks, bonds, cash and property around the world.

Its largest recent investment was a controversial stake of nearly 20 per cent in British Petroleum, Britain's largest firm

(Continued on Page 11)

Iraq fires 27, Iran 13

Missile exchange continues unabated

BAGHDAD, March 4, (Reuters): An Iranian missile slammed into Baghdad today about four hours after Iraq fired a rocket into Tehran, witnesses said.

They said the missile, the explosion from which was heard over a wide area, fell close to a densely-populated suburb and damaged several houses.

A military spokesman said the blast killed or wounded an unspecified number of civilians and destroyed homes, shops and other property. He said Iraq had fired its second missile of the day at Tehran in retaliation.

Residents said windows more than two km (one mile) from where the missile landed in Baghdad were shattered.

The spokesman said Iran's rulers would be "punished with further painful strikes by the Iraqi missile and Air Force all through the hours of the night and day."

He said Iraq launched the second missile against Tehran today at 5.30 pm (1430 GMT), about half an hour after the Iranian missile landed. Iran reported launching two missiles against Baghdad.

Hopes

The missile exchange — Iraq has now fired 27 missiles at Tehran since Monday compared with 13 reported by Iran against Baghdad — dashed hopes that the deadly "war of the cities" might be over.

The first Iraqi missile on Friday caused a "huge explosion" and killed eight people four of them infants, the Iranian news agency Irna said. The death toll in Tehran since Monday now stands at about 80 with another 200 injured, Iranian officials said.

Travellers arriving in Istanbul aboard a packed Iran Air flight estimated at least 40 per cent of the population had fled the centre of Tehran. They said seats were hard to find because foreign

airlines had cancelled flights and many people wanted to leave.

A military spokesman in Baghdad said the first Iraqi missile today, which ended a 24-hour lull in such raids, was intended "to deter the Iranian aggressors and protect the Iraqi people."

Accept

Iraq says its campaign is aimed at making Iran accept a United Nations Security Council resolution ordering a ceasefire in the 7-1/2-year-old war.

The official Iraqi news agency said today that officials of the ruling Baath Party and civil defence authorities conducted a two-hour experimental evacuation in two residential areas in Baghdad.

Baghdad's military spokesman said hours before the missile attack today that Iranian shelling of the southern port city of Basra had killed or wounded several civilians.

The missile war erupted on Monday after an Iraqi air raid on Tehran on Saturday. Iraq said its jets bombed a refinery while Iran said they hit a civilian area.

Western diplomats in the Gulf said the missile war might backfire on Iraq diplomatically by undermining efforts at the United Nations to impose an arms embargo on Iran.

A letter of HH the Amir of Kuwait urging the leaders of the 15 nations in the Security Council to initiate "expedient action" to bring the Iraq-Iran war to a speedy end was handed over today.

It was handed to their representatives in the Council yesterday by Kuwaiti Ambassador Mohammad Abulhassan with the request to forward it to their leaders.

The Amir spoke of a "bloody tragedy" that has claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands on both sides since the beginning of the war more than seven years ago.

22 perish as plane crashes near Paris

MACHAULT, France, March 4, (Reuters): Twenty-two people, including a pregnant woman, died when a French airliner plunged into high-tension electricity cables and disintegrated on the approach to Paris' Orly airport, the local gendarmerie said.

The Transports Aeriens Trans-regionaux (TAT) flight, on a domestic flight from Nancy in eastern France to Paris, exploded on impact, littering the surrounding countryside with broken debris and human remains.

"There is no hope of finding any survivors. The plane literally disintegrated. The cause of the crash is not clear but it is true that

the plane cut through high-tension cables as it came down," a gendarmerie spokesman said.

The gendarmerie said there were three crew members and 19 passengers on board the Fokker-27. TAT had not yet released a passenger list but most of the dead were expected to be French.

Witnesses said the crash, about two km (one mile) from the village of Machault, east of Fontainebleau, had carved a crater in a ploughed field and fragments of the plane were still hanging from the wires.

About 200 firemen and gendarmes had sealed off the area and were looking for the aircraft's blackbox flight recorders. Orly airport officials said the

plane disappeared off the control tower's screens at 0637 GMT.

Weather officials said conditions were poor at the time of the crash, with driving snow and rain reducing visibility.

Icing

French Radio earlier reported that during the final approach to Orly a crew member told the control tower they were experiencing problems due to icing on the turbines.

But the tower said radio conversations with the pilot remained routine until the time of the crash and no distress message had been received.

A TAT spokesman denied the aircraft's engines could have had icing problems. "This kind of air-

craft is perfectly equipped to defrost its wings and turbines," he said, adding that the company believed the crash must have been caused by some other factor.

Machault's Mayor Roger Meyling, said he heard the impact: "I was at the office this morning when I heard a shock, an explosion. I thought it was a truck that had run into an electricity pole," he said.

Coffins were being trucked into the area from Machault and the remains were being stored in the village's town hall.

Meyling said the crash had completely demolished two pylons, cutting off all the electricity in the local area.

INTERNATIONAL

Briton kidnapped in South Lebanon

W. German hostage released

BEIRUT, March 4, (Agencies): Syrian officials handed over freed West German hostage Ralph Schray to Bonn diplomats in Damascus where he met with his wife for the first time after his 36-day ordeal.

Meanwhile a Briton was kidnapped in South Lebanon yesterday.

Schray's release came only 24 hours after his captors said they would swap him for two jailed Shiite brothers accused of terrorist activities.

But a West German Justice Ministry official in Bonn said yesterday the West German government had not made a deal to secure Schray's freedom.

German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher thanked Syria for helping to gain Schray's freedom and asked Damascus to work for the release of Rudolf Cordes, a West German chemical executive abducted

in January 1987, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

The spokesman said Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara telephoned Genscher at the Nato summit meeting in Brussels, Belgium, and told him of Schray's release.

Schray's Lebanese-born wife Rana Munla, 27, went to the Syrian capital to meet him, shortly after Syrian officers in West Beirut assured her that he had been freed and was safe in Damascus.

"I am going to Damascus to bring him home," Munla told reporters in West Beirut as she emerged from a brief meeting with Col. Ali Hammoud, Syrian military chief of an observer force, at a military headquarters in Ramlet Al Baida.

Diplomatic sources in Beirut reported yesterday that Syrian officers escorted Schray out of West Beirut to Damascus where

they turned him over to West German diplomats.

Lebanese Interior Minister Abdullah Al Rasi said Schray, 31, a half-Lebanese West German citizen, had been handed over by his captors early yesterday to "one of the Syrian observers in Beirut."

A Syrian security source said gunmen of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah group dropped Schray from a three-car convoy, handed him over to senior Syrian observer Col. Amir Talleh at a checkpoint in Ramlet Al Baida.

Schray, who appeared weak and shaken by his 36-day ordeal, was then taken to a Syrian base in the eastern town of Anjar, where he was questioned about his captors, the sources said.

Schray, an engineer, was kidnapped Jan 27, in West Beirut by gunmen believed to be loyal to Abdel Hadi Hamadi, a Hezbollah security chief and the elder

brother of Mohammad Ali Hamadi and Ali Abbas Hamadi, both jailed in Germany on terrorist charges.

Schray remained out of sight in Damascus today.

Since his release, Schray has made no public appearance. It was not known whether he would return to West Beirut or leave for West Germany.

West German officials in Damascus confirmed that Schray was in the Syrian capital, but refused to give details of his exact whereabouts or future plans.

A British official of the Oxfam relief organisation was kidnapped with a Syrian colleague in the southern port city of Sidon. Oxfam headquarters reported today.

Oxfam spokesman John Magrath said in Oxford, west of London, that the organisation's Middle East coordinator, Peter



Schray: free

Coleridge, 44, and his Lebanon representative, Omar Traboulsi, were seized by unidentified kidnappers last night in Sidon, 25 miles (40 kilometres) south of Beirut.

Four identified gunmen yesterday kidnapped an Iranian and a Lebanese on the Airport Road in West Beirut, police and witnesses said.

They said the gunmen, intercepted a taxi carrying Iranian Adel Irani, 50, and the unidentified Lebanese shortly after they arrived from Kuwait on Wednesday.

Kabul agrees to cut time-scale of Soviet withdrawal

GENEVA, March 4, (Agencies): Afghanistan and Pakistan have now cleared all major obstacles to ending the Afghan war and only modalities remain before a final settlement can be signed, UN mediator Diego Cordovez said today.

Cordovez said the last "essential and fundamental" problem — a timeframe for Soviet troop withdrawal — was effectively resolved at the start of the latest round of talks Wednesday and yesterday.

Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil told reporters yesterday that the 115,000 Soviet troops in Afghanistan could be withdrawn over nine months — one month less than the 10 months offered in February by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Resolved

"We have been able to resolve one of the most difficult problems encountered in the past," Cordovez said today, meaning a pull-out timeframe because the three other main issues were completed two years ago.

Those involve Afghan-Pakistan mutual non-interference, US and Soviet guarantees, and the safe return of the five million Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Iran.

"This has created an impression of confidence and dispelled any doubts that people may still have," Cordovez told a news conference. "There is no doubt about the political significance of the agreements this week."

Cordovez said the negotia-

tions are "moving towards conclusion" although some points must still be "clarified."

"The differences that remain concern the sequence, the timing, the modalities, the procedure," he said. "But there are no fundamental differences of principle."

Cordovez said the indirect talks were adjourned for the weekend while Pakistan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zahir Noorani confers in Islamabad.

Pakistan is overwhelmingly concerned about a point not formally included in the UN plan, the formation of a new Afghan government.

"Nothing has changed," Noorani told reporters shortly before departing for Islamabad. "The importance of peace and security for the refugees who return is still there."

Meeting

All Pakistani political parties will meet in Islamabad tomorrow to decide on whether an agreement could be signed at all with the current Kabul regime or only with a transitional coalition government.

Cordovez rejected any such delay in signing and the United States also was known to be applying pressure on Pakistan to stop holding up the departure of Soviet forces from Afghanistan.

That left the Pakistan government isolated as the Soviet Union, Iran, the Afghan (Najibullah) government and Pakistani opposition parties also say the settlement should be signed without such conditions.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hidden eye

CHICAGO, March 4, (AP): A 7-year-old Turkish girl born with no external eyes underwent surgery on Wednesday in one of several steps intended to provide partial correction of her so-called "hidden eye" condition.

The girl, Dilek Erdogan, was born with a nose and a mouth, "and that's it for her face," said Dr. Allen Puterman, who performed the surgery at the University of Illinois Hospital eye and ear infirmary.

Vote to 16-year-olds

BRASILIA, March 4, (Reuters): Brazil's constituent assembly voted on Wednesday to give the vote to 16-year-olds.

The assembly, which is drawing up a new constitution, voted by 355 to 98 to lower the voting age to 16 from 18, thus adding about 10 million voters to Brazil's electoral roll.

For Brazilians over 18 voting is compulsory. For those between 16 and 18 it will be a right but not compulsory.

Fresh talks

BRUSSELS, March 4, (Reuters): The prime ministers of Greece and Turkey, two Nato members which nearly went to war last year, met in Brussels today for further talks to improve relations, Greek diplomatic sources said.

Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu and Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal held their talks at a Belgian Foreign Ministry building near the city centre following a two-hour meeting yesterday at the end of a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation summit.

Tornado fighter

LONDON, March 4, (UPI): Britain said yesterday it plans to sell eight Tornado fighter jets to Jordan in a deal worth £250 million (\$450 million) agreed by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and King Hussein.

Although the deal is still to be signed, a spokesman for Thatcher said she had discussed the details on Tuesday with Hussein who is visiting London for dental treatment and that she had agreed to the sale.

Planes returned

CAIRO, March 4, (Reuters): Four Libyan air force pilots who landed their planes in Egypt flew them home yesterday, the national Middle East News Agency (Mena) said.

Mena, quoting the Libyan news agency Jana in a highly unusual move, reported Libya's version — that the four Soviet-made MiG-23 fighters landed at a base in the western desert on Tuesday because they were running out of fuel.

Marcos denial

MANILA, March 4, (Reuters): Ousted Philippine ruler Ferdinand Marcos yesterday denied he was dying of cancer and said President Corason Aquino should concentrate on fighting communist rebels instead of pursuing corruption charges against him.

"Doctors tested if I had cancer, but there is no cancer," Marcos said, dismissing a Manila newspaper report on Tuesday that he had the disease and was tied to die in his homeland.

Suicide

CHICAGO, March 4, (Reuters): The risk of suicide among American men diagnosed as having AIDS is 66 times higher than among the general population, according to a study published yesterday.

"AIDS represents a significant risk factor for suicide," said the authors of the study, published in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Traffic riots

KARACHI, March 4, (Reuters): Police shot dead two rioters in Pakistan's biggest city, Karachi, yesterday taking the toll from three days of protests about a traffic accident to five, doctors said.

Seven people were injured. The riots erupted on Monday night after an oil tanker hit a house and killed four people.

Guns, drugs seized

MANILA, March 4, (Reuters): Coast guards have seized a fishing boat loaded with guns, bullets and marijuana worth one million pesos (\$50,000), a spokesman said today.

He said six Filipino crew and a Japanese, Sakiyama Bayatume, were arrested after the boat was intercepted off the coast of the northern province of La Union on Wednesday.

Accident

CAIRO, March 4, (Reuters): Seventeen people, all from one family, were killed when a truck smashed into their overcrowded minibus in south Egypt, a Cairo newspaper said today.

The accident near Assiut, 380 km (235 miles) south of Cairo, occurred while the victims were heading home from a wedding party, the daily Al-Ahram said.

India tests new radar

NEW DELHI, March 4, (Reuters): India claimed a technological breakthrough yesterday after successfully testing radar to detect low-flying aircraft.

"The tests are a major technological breakthrough," a defence ministry official said.

He said the Indian-built, low-level surveillance systems called Indra-1 for the Army and Indra-2 for the Air Force would be introduced soon. He gave no details about their capabilities.

Last month India tested its first surface-to-surface missile with a range of 250 km.

The official said scientists were also working on developing a radar system for the Navy.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has laid great stress on defence preparedness, buying ships, submarines, aircraft and guns in the past two years from abroad.

Closure of PLO office in UN

General Assembly may reconvene

UNITED NATIONS, March 4, (Reuters): The General Assembly is ready to reconvene at short notice if the United States defies a call by the world body not to close down the Palestine Liberation Organisation's UN mission.

By a vote of 143 to one, with only Israel opposed, the assembly said on Wednesday that implementation of a US "Anti-Terrorist Act" ordering closure of the office by March 21 would violate a 1947 agreement establishing the UN headquarters in New York.

In a second resolution, adopted by 143 votes to none, the assembly asked the World Court at the Hague to rule whether the United States was bound to enter into compulsory arbitration on the issue, as laid down in the 1947 accord.

Israel did not participate in the

second vote, and the United States declined to participate in either, saying no final decision had been made on applying the legislation.

The act formed part of an \$8.3-billion money bill signed by President Reagan last December despite misgivings by many US officials that the PLO measure conflicts with Washington's undertakings to the United Nations.

The assembly, in recess since December, acted at a specially resumed three-day session prompted by what diplomats consider the most serious clash over prerogatives between the organisation and its host country.

Assembly president Peter Florin, an East German deputy foreign minister, said the assembly would keep the matter under active review and reconvene if

necessary.

The PLO has had a UN observer mission since 1974, when it was invited to take part in the work of the assembly and PLO chairman Yasser Arafat addressed the world body.

Its chief representative, Zehdi Terzi, operating from a townhouse on the fashionable east side of Manhattan island, plays an active role at the United Nations although, like other observers, he has no voting rights.

Outlining a worst-case scenario, Terzi told reporters that if his office were closed, the entire United Nations would have to move "because the United States would renege on the (1947) agreement and there would be nothing to protect the headquarters."

Law and order is top priority, says Aquino

MANILA, March 4, (Reuters): Philippine President Corason Aquino said today her administration's top priority was curbing crime and destroying leftist and rightist rebels.

"The first and the most important is law and order throughout the land. This calls for the curbing of criminality, and the destruction of the rightist and leftist elements in our society that are bent on the overthrow of our government."

Aquino was addressing a meeting of more than 1,500 newly elected provincial governors and town and city mayors. The meeting was called by the national government to discuss the main problems facing the country.

Preparing

Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos told the meeting communist guerrillas carrying on a 20-year-old insurgency were preparing to field their own candidate in the 1992 Philippine presidential elections.

"The Communist Party has formed basic power organs in some parts of the country. It has also formed provincial electoral machineries to ensure its success in future elections," Ramos said.

Aquino, who survived five coup attempts by rightist rebels, said economic development was her second priority. The success of this would depend on the government's ability to reach all Filipinos and make a difference on their lives.

"Needless to say, it means securing their lives."

Fifteen people, including nine

children aged between five and 14, were killed and three people were injured.

"Some of the victims were going to their beds, some were watching television," he said.

Military officials said they believed the attackers were Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam guerrillas, fighting for more than four years for a homeland to be set up in the northern and eastern provinces for their minority community.

Meanwhile, Indian troops blocked Tamil demonstrations from taking place today in eastern Sri Lanka, a day after a shootout with troops killed four rebels in the north according to reports.

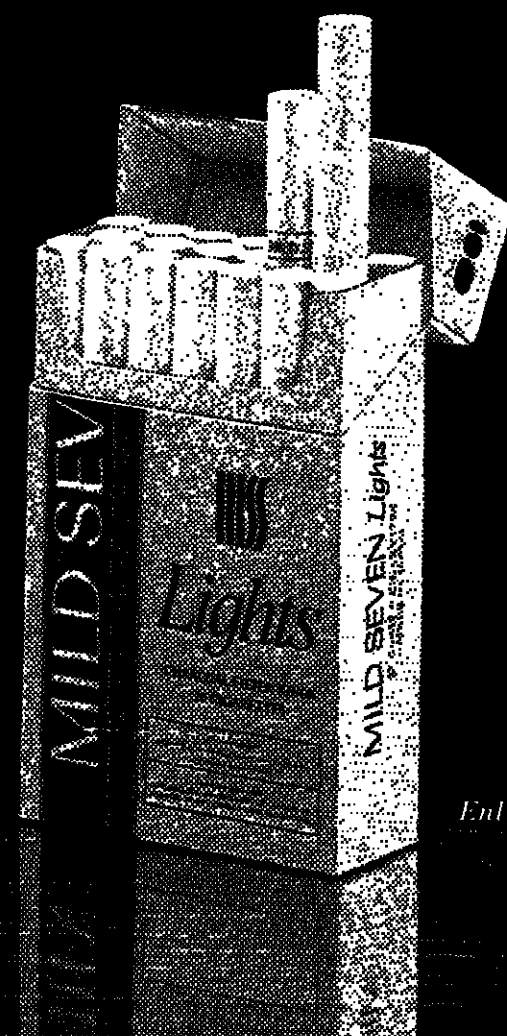
Sri Lankan military officials, who asked that they not be identified, said the four Tamil Tiger rebels were killed after attacking an Indian patrol near the northern town of Jaffna. They said one soldier was badly wounded.

India has an estimated 45,000 soldiers in Sri Lanka to enforce an Indian-brokered peace accord signed last July.

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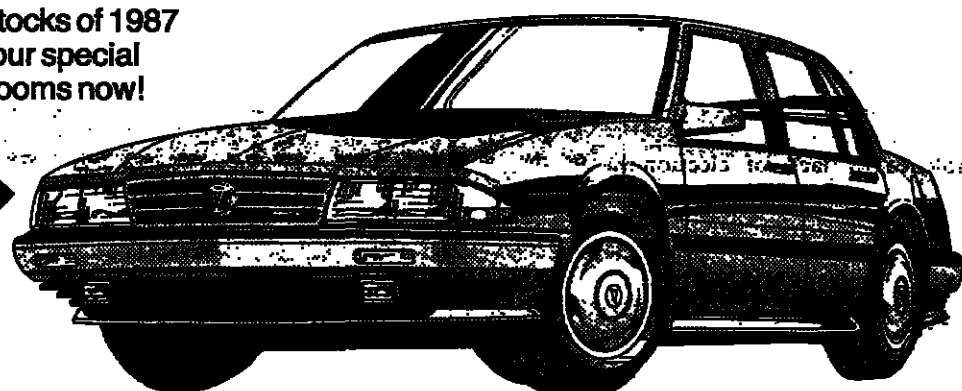
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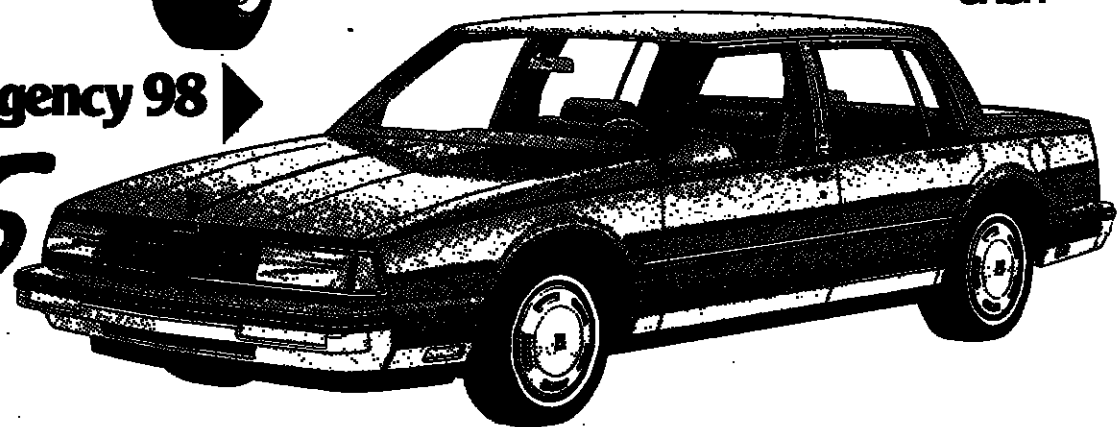
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A third force in UK politics

Liberals and Social Democrats merge

LONDON, March 4, (Reuters): Liberals and Social Democrats launched their merged party as a third force in British politics yesterday, facing local government elections as a first test of their challenge to their dominant Conservative and Labour rivals.

The Liberal and Social Democratic leaders David Steel and Robert MacLennan formally presented the new Social and Liberal Democrats (SLD) at a London news conference after each party had approved the merger in a membership ballot.

"We are a big party, a party of experience and a party with a strong sense of direction and commitment," Steel said. "We intend to give hope to a whole new generation in the value of participating in the democratic process."

Steel, the bookmakers' favourite to become the SLD's first leader, started the painful unification process after a Liberal/Social Democrat alliance fared poorly in last June's general election.

"We have come through pain and agony positively, triumphantly," he said.

Political commentators said that, after eight months of wrangling which split the Social Democrats, poor opinion poll showings and a disappointing turnout in the membership ballots, the SLD faced an uphill battle to win voters' support.

"What, please, is a Social Liberal Democrat which a Liberal or a Social Democrat wasn't?" the Guardian newspaper asked in an editorial.

Liberals supported fusion by more than 7-1, the Social Democrats by 2-1, but turnout in both ballots was just above 50 per cent.

"Political parties which cannot excite their own membership to vote have little enough chance of encouraging anyone else to vote for them," another newspaper, the Independent, said.

With the Conservatives riding high in their third consecutive term of office and the opposition Labour Party gaining support, the middle ground is shrinking and the SLD faces a fight even among centrist voters.

David Owen, former leader of the Social Democrats who claims some 30,000 members for his anti-merger campaign, says he plans to rebuild the party he founded in 1981.

"I don't think the electorate is going to see very much difference — there were four political parties before this fiasco started," Owen said on television. "There is now a continuing SDP and there is the Liberal Party with some Social Democrats."

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Panamanian assets in US frozen

Opposition strike called off

PANAMA CITY, March 4, (Reuters): Opposition leaders, amid fears of a serious cash shortage, are lifting a general strike against military leader General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Jose Raul Molino, leading the civic crusade coalition, said yesterday the strike was suspended because of the financial crisis caused by ousted President Eric Arturo Delvalle's moves to freeze Panamanian assets in the United States.

"We never expected this," said Molino, whose opposition group called the general strike last week in an attempt to force Noriega. Panama's de facto leader, to resign.

But the strategy backfired against the coalition of about 200 labour and business groups, who are now facing financial crisis while Noriega appears little affected by the strike.

The US State Department said

last night it had certified that the Panamanian ambassador in Washington, who is loyal to Devalle, had authority over the assets.

The Ambassador, Juan Sosa, acting for Delvalle, filed suit against four US banks to prevent money in Panamanian government accounts from being sent to Noriega's government.

One bank settled the suit out of court on Wednesday by putting \$10 million out of Panamanian funds in the federal reserve, and yesterday a federal judge barred the other three banks from sending any money to Panama.

The United States is also considering sanctions such as a halt in payments on the strategic Panama canal operation and an economic embargo, in spite of warnings by political analysts that such moves are unlikely to force Noriega out.

Air Panama was cancelling

flights to the United States, fearing its planes could be seized under widening economic sanctions against Noriega, diplomatic sources said yesterday.

Bankers here said a cash shortage was taking place and most banks were limiting withdrawals on individual accounts.

Lloyds bank of London limited withdrawals to \$500 in cash. Funds over that amount were paid in travellers' cheques.

One foreign banker said many businesses will not be able to pay weekly salaries today, and some banks would not open.

The strike faltered yesterday with many shops reopening, and predicted street protests failed to materialise.

Opposition leaders said on Wednesday that they backed Delvalle's action as a means to put pressure on Noriega.

But after long lines at banks

yesterday and nervousness among the business community and bankers the mood has changed.

"There has been a crisis today. There's no cash. It has forced us to take a hard look at our strategy," Molino said.

Delvalle requested the freeze from a hiding place in Panama, where he has been since being voted out of office just hours after trying to fire Noriega, who has been indicted in the United States on drug trafficking charges.

The legislative assembly named as acting President the former Education Minister Manuel Solis Palma, but Washington still recognises Delvalle.

Solis Palma on Wednesday named Aquilino Boyd as his new Ambassador to Washington, but the State Department certified Sosa as the legal ambassador.

Khaddafi bulldozes jail, frees prisoners

LONDON, March 4, (Agencies): Libyan strongman Col. Moammar Khaddafi climbed aboard a bulldozer yesterday as promised and crushed it through the gates of a jail in Tripoli to free its 400 prisoners, according to a telecast monitored by the BBC.

BBC said the Libyan television broadcast showed crowds cheering as the flamboyant Khaddafi steered the vehicle on its demolition mission, then pictures of prisoners clambering over the rubble and into a square outside the lock-up.

Khaddafi had sworn on Wednesday, in a nationwide broadcast that he would use a tractor to batter down the prison gates and turn loose its inmates, some of whom he said had plotted to assassinate him.

According to the BBC monitor, Khaddafi told the crowd before taking control of the bulldozer that Thursday had been declared "a day of freedom."

Chains
"Today is the day of freedom, the day on which chains should be destroyed, and prisons and jails should be demolished," he said.

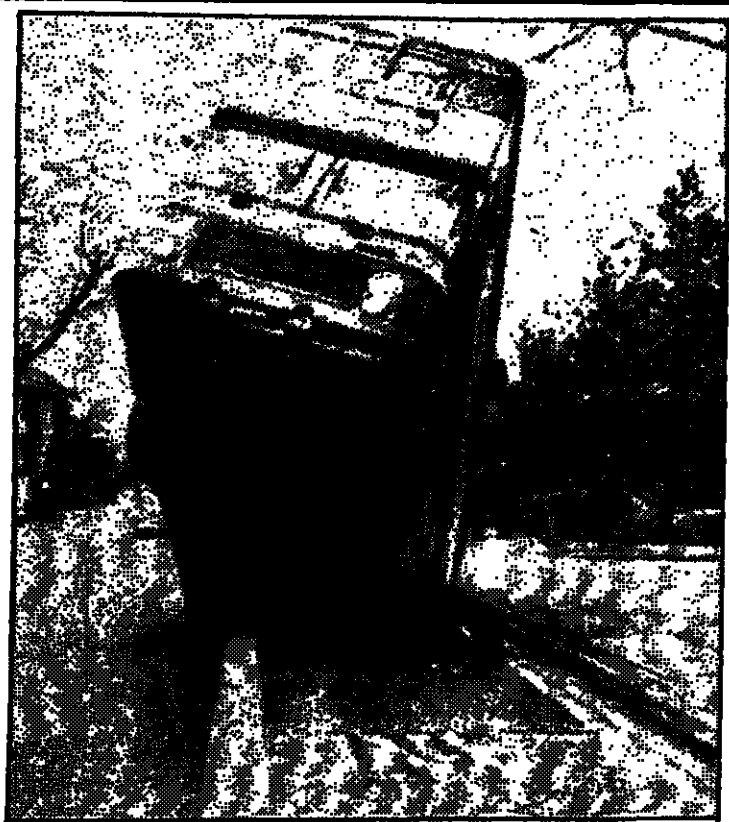
"The charges against these brothers is worn out by time," Khaddafi said. "1970 is not 1980, and 1969 (the year Khaddafi overthrew Libya's monarchy to take power) is not the same as 1985 or 1989."

He said the prisoners had tried to "usurp the revolution and falsify my history and the history of the revolution, until you were arrested and sentenced to death. Life imprisonment and detention."

But Khaddafi said they were not traitors. "In my view," he explained, "the charge against you is lack of knowledge and not treason, and treachery, not plotting... you did not know what the revolution was."

The amnesty does not cover those "accused of treason by linking themselves with foreign powers" that have tried to use force to arrive at things of their own. "Jana quoted Khaddafi as saying: These prisoners do not exceed 100, he said."

According to Jana, Khaddafi also announced the abolishment of "extra-ordinary trials," and said all cases will be referred to a "people's court" run by the People's Congress.



● The rear portion of this bus slid in as an eight-metre hole opened up under it in Norwich, England, on Thursday, and started a major gas-leak alert in the immediate area. Approximately 20 adults and children on the bus were unhurt, but two houses and a hotel nearby were evacuated. (Reuters wirephoto)

Kirkpatrick endorses Dole

Bush to test strength in South Carolina

WASHINGTON, March 4, (Reuters): The four Republican presidential hopefuls searched for votes in South Carolina today on the eve of a primary that will test the strength of Vice President George Bush in the South.

Opinion polls give Bush a commanding lead over Senate minority leader Robert Dole, former television evangelist Pat Robertson and New York Congressman Jack Kemp for South Carolina's 37 Republican presidential nomination delegates, due to be selected tomorrow.

In Washington yesterday, Dole was endorsed by former United Nations Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick, a favourite among conservatives who briefly considered entering the presidential race herself.

Nomination
South Carolina provides only two per cent of the 1,139 delegates needed for the party's presidential nomination but is considered a review of the March 8 "super Tuesday" contest.

On that day, Republicans in 17 states, including a dozen in the South, will choose more than a third of their national convention delegates.

Primary elections, part of the presidential selection process, are held in individual states so that voters can select delegates to support their preferred candidates at the national party conventions in the summer.

A CBS News-New York

Times poll of voters in the 20 "super Tuesday" primary states said 47 per cent of Republicans would vote for Bush, 18 per cent for Dole and 14 per cent for former television evangelist Pat Robertson.

Favoured
A USA Today-CNN poll found that Bush leads Dole by 39 per cent to 30 per cent nationally but among southern Republican his lead grows to 48 per cent to Dole's 27 per cent.

On the Democratic side, the CBS News-New York Times poll found that 20 per cent of voters favoured civil rights activist Jesse Jackson, while Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis and Tennessee Senator Albert Gore each got 14 per cent.

Former Colorado Senator Gary Hart received eight per cent, Missouri Congressman Richard Gephardt seven per cent and Indiana senator Paul Simon two per cent.

In the USA Today-CNN poll, Dukakis leads with 22 per cent, Jackson has 14 per cent, Gephardt 13 per cent and Gore five per cent.

Only Republican delegates will be chosen in South Carolina tomorrow, South Carolina Democrats chose their delegates in caucuses four days after the super Tuesday races.

On super Tuesday, Democrats in 20 states will choose about a third of the delegates to their July national convention.

Ershad party wins in 'voterless' polls

(Continued from Page 1)

incidents of election fraud, a charge substantiated by a UPI correspondent who witnessed wide-scale ballot box stuffing and theft during visit to 45 Dhaka polling stations.

The Combined Opposition Party (COP) won 13 seats, independents 10, the Freedom Party and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Siraj) one each.

Protest
Nearly 1,500 journalists walked out of newspaper and news agency offices tonight in protest against what they called official interference in election coverage.

Journalists would not work "in protest at official interference in objective reporting, continuous muzzling of the press and repressive actions against journalists," Rezauddin Ahmed, Secretary-General of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists, said.

Home Minister Mohammad Abdul Mahtab told reporters after the polls closed that vote-rigging, violence or "lack of election officials had forced the suspension of polling at 170 centres.

Police sources said at least 13 people died on polling day when bands of rival political workers fought with guns, bombs and knives in several cities. The official death toll was five.

COP leader A. S. M. Abdur Rob, who aspires to become official opposition leader in the new parliament, agreed there had been fraud and said some of his candidates had suffered at the hands of Jatiya activists.

Army bars press ...

(Continued from Page 1)

Reuter chief photographer in Israel, Jim Hollander, and his wife Rina Castelnovo were attacked by Jewish settlers in the town of Hebron yesterday while taking pictures of a religious festival parade, witnesses said.

Castelnovo, a freelance photographer was on assignment for the Time magazine.

A male settler hit Castelnovo on the head with her camera, knocking her to the ground and causing two wounds, one of which required five stitches. She was treated in a Jerusalem hospital and released.

Another settler hit Hollander in the face with his camera, injuring his lip and smashing his glasses. Troops intervened to stop the attack.

The Israeli Army has replaced wooden clubs used to beat Palestinian demonstrators with batons made of black fibreglass which do not break as easily, an Army spokesman said yesterday.



● Two Japanese girls fail to put their feet in what is claimed to be the world's largest high-heeled shoe but they can use the 160-cm long shoe, weighing 8kg as a slide, up 60cms above the ground. The shoe will be registered in the Guinness Book of World Records. (Reuters wirephoto)

Signs of change in Soviet policy welcomed

Nato summit backs Reagan

BRUSSELS, March 4, (Reuters): Nato leaders proclaimed their support for President Reagan's arms control strategy at the end of their summit yesterday but papered over differences about how and when to modernise the alliance's nuclear weapons.

In a final declaration after two days of talks, the 16 heads of government welcomed signs of change in the Soviet Union and called on Moscow to match its words with lasting policy changes to reduce its military threat to the West.

The statement reaffirmed the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's strategy of nuclear deterrence and gave Reagan a warm send-off for his forthcoming Moscow summit with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

The 77-year-old US President, setting the tone for ringing declarations of allied unity from all the leaders, responded with a pledge to keep US forces in Europe for as long as they were

needed. "The state of the alliance is excellent. We're strong, we're united, we're prosperous and we're free," Reagan said in a statement to reporters, his voice hoarse from a slight cold.

On the delicate issue of modernising short-range US nuclear weapons in Europe, a project which has traumatised public opinion in West Germany, the leaders settled for a compromise formula at Nato's first full summit in six years.

"For the foreseeable future there is no alternative to the alliance strategy for the prevention of war. This is a strategy of deterrence based upon an appropriate mix of adequate and effective nuclear and conventional forces which will continue to be kept up to date where necessary," their communiqué said.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who was determined to avoid a specific decision to modernise the short-range

weapons based mainly in his country, said he was satisfied with the outcome.

"It was important to us that no isolated decisions were taken on individual weapons categories," Kohl told reporters.

Nato Secretary General Lord Carrington insisted the leaders had not "fudged" the issue, but one alliance official said:

"It is all things to all men. It is soft for those who want it soft and hard for those who want it hard."

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who had argued most passionately for the Nato modernisation programme, also pronounced herself satisfied with the agreement.

"We've achieved all the objectives we set ourselves," she told a news conference.

Reagan, too, stressed a need for Nato to maintain a credible deterrent to continue what he called its success of the past 40 years — preventing war in Europe.

Armenians bury dead relatives

Soviets struggle to avoid ethnic riots

MOSCOW, March 4, (Reuters): Soviet authorities in troubled Transcaucasia struggled today to prevent a spread of feuding between Armenians and Azerbaijanis following ethnic riots in which seven members of one family were said to have died.

Reports reached Moscow of meetings to promote friendship and efforts to help refugees from the unrest, which broke out after Armenians called for the return of a region now ruled from the neighbouring republic of Azerbaijan.

An Armenian in the Azerbaijani city of Sumgait with whom Reuters was connected from Moscow when seeking to telephone the local Communist Party headquarters said seven members of a single family died in riots which broke out on Sunday.

The clearly distraught man, who said he was a refugee from the violence, sobbed as he spoke from a club house opposite the party building where he said refugees were waiting to be moved out of Sumgait.

Curfew
He said there had been cases of murder, rape and robbery of Armenians in two days of ethnic disturbances.

"But then the troops came in and helped us," he said, apparently referring to a military-supervised curfew imposed on Monday and backed by armoured troops.

Moscow maintained an effective news blackout clearly designed to prevent reports of violence

from provoking further incidents.

In the absence of comment from Azerbaijani officials who had earlier helped journalists, Moscow dissident Sergei Grigoryants said Armenians buried relatives killed in riots yesterday in Sumgait, which lies in the Caspian Sea and is Azerbaijan's second city after the capital Baku.

Riots

Grigoryants, himself half-Armenian, has quoted Armenian sources as saying 17 died and 70 were injured in the Sumgait riots although the Soviet Foreign Ministry has said only that an unspecified number of people were killed.

The man said he wanted to get right away — not just to neighbouring Armenia, where hundreds of thousands of people demonstrated last week in the capital, Yerevan, for the return of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan.

"But we are afraid we will be deceived and that we will not be taken out of the city," he said. "We built this city, we taught them..." were his last words before he was cut off without having given his name.

He seemed to be referring to the crash building of the city in the 1940s by "International Youth Brigades" from all over the Soviet Union which transformed Sumgait from a dusty seaside village of Azerbaijan's second city.

Man declared dead awakes to a new life

(Continued from Page 1)

to a nearby hospital after suffering chest pains.

Five days later, his right heart artery had a spasm which blocked the blood flow, so hospital personnel tried to revive him with an external pacemaker and electric shock, said Dr Victor McLaughlin, a cardiologist.

Hospital staff worked for about 45 minutes to revive him but his heart stopped and he had no pulse, blood pressure or neurological responses, said McLaughlin. Weak, sporadic heartbeats were detected thereafter but were considered "a dying heart pattern," the physician said.

"It is very unlikely that if you can bring someone back (from that status) you'll have any functioning brain at all," McLaughlin said.

McLaughlin said he told Barnett's family he had died, and Barnett was disconnected from his intravenous feeding tubes and heart monitor.

Pressure

While the man's daughters signed papers authorising the body to be taken to the morgue and made funeral arrangements, a nurse heard him start to breathe.

He was wheeled to the coronary care unit, where personnel again found no pulse or blood pressure. Barnett was hooked up to a pacemaker and respirator, but family members told doctors that he had a "living will" requesting that he not be kept alive artificially.



UTC announced the launching of new Yardley floral body sprays at a special presentation in the Sheraton yesterday. Attending from Yardley were Zeinab Kelly, Yardley area manager for Kuwait and Eamon Staunton, Yardley International marketing manager.

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KUWAIT

Number of doctors to be increased to avoid waiting

KUWAIT'S Public Health Minister Dr Abdul Razzak Al Abdul Razzak said the number of physicians in health centres would be increased and that the hours would be extended on Fridays and holidays to avoid long periods of waiting to see a physician.

The health minister said that the current administrative structure at the health centres would remain unchanged and that physicians would not be appointed to run the centres, adding that he did not agree with transferring physicians to administrative staff.

Training
The ministry should benefit from physicians who teach at the Faculty of Medicine at Kuwait University, he said. He added that the administrative and technical staff needed to be reclassified, explaining that the administrative staff was supposed to facilitate the work of the technical staff.

Continuous training is essential, he said, to the efficiency of doctors and administration. He added that the training courses

were intended to improve the standards of health services throughout the ministry.

Regarding the issue of charging for health services, Dr Abdul Razzak said more study is required before reaching a decision on this issue.

Dr Abdul Razzak said that spending would be reduced on unnecessary services at the ministry and restrictions placed on some work procedures. He added, however, that essential projects, such as the planned psychiatric hospital, would be carried out.

Identification
Meanwhile, Abdul Qader Al Gharabally, the Director of the Information Department at Kuwait's Ministry of Health, said one of the main activities of the department was linking the civil identification card system with health registration information. He said that a health file would be opened for each resident, with Civil ID card data entered in the files. The system will improve the processing of applications, he said, adding that a system of registration for bir-

th, deaths, and manpower at the ministry would be included in the system.

Mohammad Ali Yonis, the head of the systems and programming section, said two of the department's main problems were the shortage of manpower and the cuts in spending. He added that although the department prefers to have Kuwaiti personnel, foreign expertise was necessary. He added that the department has only 28 Kuwaitis employed.

Manpower
Isam Bader Al Mulla, the head of the administrative affairs section, said the department requires more specialists to cover manpower shortages and more computer graduates to help in developing the ministry's services.

Plans are underway to link health areas by computer network, Gharabally said, with operations to begin this month. He added that world health care data was stored by computers to assist different ministry departments.



● The Kuwait Embassy in Paris, France celebrated Kuwait's 27th National Day with a reception at the embassy.

Women's committee to hold cultural week

THE women's committee at the Islamic Heritage Revival Society will hold its first cultural week from March 5 to 9 at its headquarters in Shuwaikh.

In an interview with Kuna, the president of the committee Dana Al Flaj said the agenda for the week-long meeting under the slogan "for the sake of forming a Muslim women in accordance to the Holy Book and Sunna," includes three lectures on Muslim women and their role in the society. The lectures will be held separately by three Islamic scientists.

The society, which was established in December 1981, is a clearing house of old Islamic transcripts and books from all over the world.

It seeks to highlight superior qualities of Islam, encourages scientists and researchers to intensify their efforts in Islamic studies and spread their scientific results and researches, in addition to urging people to adhere to Islamic principles.

According to Al Flaj, the committee also embarks on holding charitable projects in the Islamic

world, such as building mosques, hospitals and schools in coordination with other societies, institutions and peoples' donations.

The society provides Muslims in needy countries with medical equipments and raises their morale by clarifying Islamic concepts to them and explaining disputed matters, in addition to calling on non Muslims to embrace Islam.

The committee organises visits to different Islamic states to study on the situation of Muslims and share with them their problems in addition to strengthening relations with them.

The relations between the society and other charity societies are based on cooperation and coordination.

Al Flaj called on the people to support the society to spread its Islamic message at the international level.

She also called on the youth to use their leisure time profitably by looking in to the science of Islam and following its principles which are considered as the bases of human nature.

Over 31,000 bags of blood donated last year

DR Abdul Aziz Al Basheer, the Director of the Blood Transfusion Services Department and Director General of the Kuwait Blood Bank, said a total of 31,068 bags of blood were donated in 1987, of which 29,604 went to public hospitals and 805 to private hospitals.

A symposium held on Monday by the Kuwait Medical Society entitled "Negative and Positive Aspects of Blood Donation" Dr Al Basheer said that when the blood bank was established in 1965, it depended heavily on blood donated locally rather than imported supplies.

Dr Mustafa Arjawi, a professor of Islamic jurisprudence at the College of Sharia and Islamic Studies at Kuwait University, said that Islam encouraged all human acts aimed at saving the lives of others, and that the donation of blood was but one example. He stressed that Islam imposed no restrictions on blood transfusions between members of different religions.

Dr Ahmad Hafez, a haematologist at Sabah Hospital said blood donations did not pose any danger to the donor. He added that donating blood relieved the body of old blood cells, iron surpluses and provided the body the chance to generate new blood cells.

Anti-smoking seminar

THE Kuwait Anti-Smoking Society held a seminar on the importance of public awareness in the fight against smoking. Dr Hussain Al Moemen from the Ministry of Public Health criticised the role of advertising companies which encourage people to smoke. He added that such companies only care about making money.

New policy endorsed

KUWAIT'S Education Ministry has endorsed a new policy which will require teachers to have four years of professional training in addition to secondary school graduation.

Rasheed Al Hamad, the Assistant Undersecretary for Planning and Development, said that according to the new policy, new teachers would be required to have technical and professional qualifications besides character references and field experience. He explained that the new requirements were a response to the need for highly qualified and well experienced teachers.

Al Hamad stressed the role played by the teacher in the educational process and his or her ability to conduct a class and successfully apply sound teaching methods and techniques.

He added that the ministry had plans to provide special training for teachers in specific areas.

Death sentence upheld

KUWAIT'S Court of Higher Appeal upheld the death sentence issued by the Criminal Court against two women Farida and Alis for the premeditated murder of a boy.

According to testimony given in court, Farida and Alis had conspired to murder the boy's father, a doctor, and his mother in public. In order to get revenge, Farida sought help from her friend Alis to kill Naim's son by another wife. Alis was paid KD500 for acting as an accomplice.

Police said that during investigations both women confessed to putting the boy in a tub of water and holding his head down until he died.

Death sentence reduced to life

KUWAIT'S Court of Cassation, with Judge Mohammed Al Rifai presiding, overruled the death sentence issued by the criminal court against a Filipino sailor accused of stabbing his colleague to death while aboard their ship.

The Court of Cassation sentenced the man Sifer to life imprisonment instead of death after consideration of the murder which was committed at Shuwaikh Port.

Testimony given in court indicated that when Sifer's roommate asked him to stop typing so he could sleep, Sifer became angry and stabbed him six times with a knife.

Lawyer acquitted

KUWAIT'S Criminal Court acquitted a lawyer accused of resisting arrest and insulting three policemen while they were performing their official duties.

The court's decision followed the testimony of witnesses for the defence and the plea of not guilty by the defendant.

ROYAL COURT

Amiri cable

HH the Amir on Thursday sent a cable of congratulations to King Hassan II of Morocco on the anniversary of his ascension to the throne.

Crown Prince cables

HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saeed Al Abdullah has sent a cable of congratulation to Moroccan monarch King Hassan II on the occasion of his ascension to the throne. Sheikh Saeed has also sent a similar cable to the Moroccan Premier Izzeddine Laraki.

KUWAIT PRESS DIGEST

Superpowers fuelling regional flashpoints

A KUWAITI newspaper expressed belief yesterday that the superpowers can adopt a more positive attitude towards the Iraq-Iran war, "that patronises peace instead of their implicit consent to the conflict's continuation and full flare-up."

Al Rai Al Aam charged the two big powers of fuelling regional flashpoints including the seven and a half year old Iran-Iraq war to secure the largest possible arms sales to the region. "The US and Soviet Union, each using his ways, have been banking on time and dispatching envoys to Arab and Islamic capitals to air statements and assurances that encourage Israeli insolence and appease Iran's non-acceptance of all international peace calls," the paper went on.

Al Rai Al Aam renewed its calls that Washington and Moscow should "objectively collaborate to curb the relentless Israeli crimes against the Palestinian people and the recurrent Iranian aggressions on Iraqi sovereignty."

Concluding, the paper said that despite the ferocity of Israeli aggressions on Palestinian women and children and the Zionist entity's bone-breaking policies, the US found no embarrassment with acquiescing in the oppressive Israeli measures.

Algerian call for Arab summit lauded

A KUWAITI magazine has lauded the recent proposals of Algerian President Chadli Benjedid for the holding of an extraordinary Arab summit to step up support for the popular Palestinian uprising against the savage Israeli occupation.

The weekly Al Nahda commented editorially in its new edition appearing today that the Algerian President "stood alone before all Arabs and loudly asked: doesn't this upheaval deserve an Arab summit?"

The magazine pointed out that though the Palestinian revolt enters its fourth month next week, official Arab reaction is still confused and ranged between silence or a wait and see attitude.

The weekly stressed that the entire world has been shocked by the Israeli brutalities against Palestinian civilians to a point where Denmark ceased its traditional support for the Zionist entity and declared a boycott of Israeli products to protest the Army's atrocities.

It emphasised that all European capitals have announced full support for the Palestinian upheaval against the Israeli occupation. "Whilst Arab governments are still hesitating or beefing up support for the Zionist entity," the magazine said.

Washington's strategic alliance with Tel Aviv disqualified it from the role of a middleman between Arab countries and Israel.

Last Wednesday, Kuwaiti acting Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed said Kuwait would respond to the Algerian call if it received an official invitation.

GULF PRESS

Shultz mission aimed at buying time

UNITED Arab Emirates dailies, predicting that US Secretary of State George Shultz had no new proposals, agreed, his mission was aimed at buying time for the US and Israel and aborting the three month old Palestinian uprising.

The English language daily Khaleej Times in an editorial said "the proposals Shultz brought during his shuttle this week were hopelessly inadequate and outdated and only reinforced the impression that the US was merely trying to buy time and break the momentum of the uprising."

It said "no wonder Shultz got nowhere with the proposals in the Arab capitals he visited."

"If he is coming back merely to push them again by twisting more arms, the end result will be the same", the Dubai based daily said in its editorial.

"The US Secretary of State should be able to see that there is no bypassing the PLO any longer and if he wants to provide earnest American intentions not to be forever led by the nose by the Israelis then talking to the PLO will be one convincing way of doing it," the paper said.

The Sharjah based newspaper Al Khaleej wondered in its editorial what fresh ideas Shultz would bring this time saying "this crafty diplomat will try to sell old ideas in new terms."

"Will somebody listen to him this time? Is there any Palestinian faction which will accept less than an end to occupation and right to self determination?" the newspaper asked.

The newspaper added "it is wrong to believe that appeasement is enough to stop the uprising and that those who were brought up in the 1936 revolution and the sad consequences of 1973 war will accept any more slogans such as 'soothing up promises'."

Gulf Palestinians rally to help uprising

A SURGE of cash donations from Palestinians in the Gulf Arab states is helping to maintain the three-month-old uprising against Israeli rule in the West Bank and Gaza, Palestinians say.

Donations to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), glittering fund-raising dinners and family and village charities have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars in humanitarian aid for patriots in the occupied territories.

Initiative
Kuwait's Palestinian elite paid 25 dinars (\$90) a plate last month for dinner at a five-star hotel which grossed more than 700,000 dollars.

A Palestinian car dealer put a 1930 Ford on the auction block. Readers of a Kuwaiti newspaper sent it nearly \$100,000 for a special fund. Firms sponsored austerity lunches and asked their employees to give up a day's salary.

"People are taking the

initiative to support injured families," said Anis Qasim, a prominent Palestinian lawyer in Kuwait, where the 300,000-strong Palestinian community is the largest outside Lebanon and Jordan. "There are more contributions than ever before."

In quieter times, Gulf Palestinians remit hard currency to families under Israeli occupation to help them cope with unemployment and low wages.

But since stone-throwing youth began their protests against Israeli rule last December, Palestinian communities from Kuwait to Jeddah have rushed to help families of the dead and wounded.

Affected
Israel says 79 Palestinians have so far been killed and hundreds wounded by its troops, but the PLO puts the toll much higher.

The casualties have strained health and welfare services and left hundreds of families without a breadwinner.

"Just about every Palestinian has been directly affected by what is happening in their country," said Shafiq Ghabra, a Kuwait University professor of Palestinian origin. "Everyone knows a martyr, maybe a cousin or nephew. Relatives are dying."

The PLO has set up a special bank account in Tunis for direct donations. But the biggest source of funds is probably professional, family and village charities that existed before the uprising and have now acquired new vigour.

Clamped
"Palestinians from a given village tend to stick together even after they've lived in exile for 30 or more years," said Ghabra. "Many villages have their own funds to support people and projects in the occupied territories."

Israel has clamped a \$1,000 per person ceiling on the amount of hard currency Palestinians can bring back to the occupied territories, Palestinian officials

say. But this can be circumvented through smuggling and bank transfers.

"Nothing can stop us from sending money into the occupied territories," said Awni Battash, head of Kuwait's PLO mission.

Response
The PLO executive committee has called on every Palestinian family abroad to adopt one inside the territories. Battash said the response in Kuwait has been good.

"Palestinians in Kuwait are among the most active supporters of the uprising," he told Reuters. Citing their relative wealth and sophistication, close family ties and encouragement from the government.

As in other Gulf states, a committee has been set up to oversee contributions comprising local representatives of the various Palestinian commando factions, the Palestine National Council and social and professional associations.



Kisr officials observe fish being sorted during their visit.

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Arabs urged to curb AIDS through teachings of religion

CAIRO, March 4. (Agencies): Arab doctors urged their countrymen yesterday to help curb the spread of AIDS in the Middle East by adhering to the teachings of religion.

"The human race has no choice but to prevent the spread of AIDS," Egyptian Health Minister Ragheb Dwidar told Egypt's first international conference on the disease. "Sexual relationships as stipulated by divine religions are the most effective means of protection from it."

Speakers also urged governments to educate their people on the acquired immune deficiency syndrome which kills by crippling the body's defences against disease.

"There is no doubt AIDS is (only) slightly spread in Islamic countries because of religion, but it is time to strike the bells of

danger and teach those who do not know about AIDS, Mamdouh Gabr, Chairman of Cairo's Doctors Union told delegates.

"By education and religion, we can fight this epidemic," said Gabr.

The three-day conference, organised by a private Egyptian medical society and attended by specialists from Arab and Western countries, will discuss such issues as prevention and control of AIDS through law, religion and public information.

Reported cases
About 110 AIDS cases from the Middle East and North Africa have been reported to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

In Geneva, the number of AIDS cases in Arab countries reported to the World Health Organisation has risen to 87, although the total for the region

was believed to be substantially higher than this, according to the WHO today.

WHO officials said Egypt had notified them of five cases of AIDS, Jordan three, Lebanon three, Qatar nine, Sudan 12, Tunisia 11 and Algeria eight.

In addition, 36 more cases had been reported from other Arab states who did not wish to be identified, they said.

Apart from Qatar, none of the Gulf Cooperation states provided individual country data to the WHO, preferring instead for their figures to be included in the regional total.

Around the world there were now 81,433 cases, with 53,069 of these being in the US alone.

Elsewhere in the Americas there were another 7,340 AIDS victims, in Africa there were 9,788, in Europe 10,017, in Asia 233 and in Oceania 826.



Egyptian Health Minister Ragheb Dwidar (right) listens to a speaker at the opening session of the first international Arab conference on AIDS prevention and control in Cairo. (Reuters wirephoto)

Agfund aid for Ethiopian refugees

GENEVA, March 4. (Kuna): The Arab Gulf programme for United Nations Development Organisation (Agfund) has given \$305,000 to help Ethiopian refugees in Sudan, it was announced here today.

The UN High Commission for Refugees said the cash would be used in one of its assistance programmes for 80,000 refugees living in urban areas around Port Sudan and 24,000 rural refugees in the South Kordofan region.

The money would be used to improve schools, water and sanitation systems and to buy medicines and food, UNHCR added.

Arabic, computer linkage urged

JEDDAH, March 4. (Opecna): An international computer conference ended here with a call on experts in Islamic studies and the Arabic language to establish linkages between Arabic and computer sciences.

The conference, which has been an annual feature since the last 10 years, was organised by the King Abdulaziz University.

Lecture on justice

"TOWARDS more effective justice" was the title of a lecture held by Kuwait University's Faculty of Law with Dr Mohammed Abdul Fatah, the professor of Judicial Procedures and Hamad Al Jouan, a lawyer, as featured speakers.

Dr Abdul Fatah's presentation focused on economic factors and their impact on judicial disputes. He explained that economic factors increased the number of court cases and judicial procedures which resulted in a slowdown in the whole process. He cited the example of the Manakh crisis in Kuwait.

which placed a substantial burden on the judicial system.

He criticised lawyers who take exorbitant fees and blamed judges for delays in settling disputes.

Al Jouan remarked on the absence of justice at political, economic and social levels. The violation of Palestinian rights in occupied Palestine, he said, was an example of political and social injustice.

He added that the judicial system itself was not responsible for injustice but rather circumstances surrounding judicial bodies.

Symposium on food security

DR Mohammad Hasan Al Attar, the Director of the Food Resources Division at Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, at a symposium entitled "Food security and the environment," said the food resources were continually affected by environmental pollutants. He added that these pollutants were either from chemical wastes dumped at sea, or from pesticides sprayed on crops, which usually contain highly toxic chemicals.

Also speaking at the symposium, held on Wednesday at

the Environmental Protection Society, Dr Wajeeb Sawaya, from KISR, said safe food was an essential requirement to man's progress and prosperity. He added that the complex growth of modern civilisation increased the number of factors that had an adverse effect on food safety.

Sawaya said that man was to blame for the chemical preservatives used in food and the hormones used to increase crop productivity; all of which were a threat to the safety of food.

Plan to mark International Decade for Cultural Development

THE International Fund for Culture is scheduled to open a meeting from March 6 to 8, under the auspices of Kuwait's Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and head of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters Rashed Abdul Aziz Al Rashed, while activities for the International Decade for Cultural Development will begin shortly.

The International Decade for Cultural Development, marking the years from 1988 to 1997, aims at following the cultural dimension in the process of development, and encouraging talents as well as cultural life in many parts of the world.

The idea of holding an international decade for cultural development was first born in

1970 when the first international government conference was held in Venice, Italy. Discussions on the matter continued until members at the World Conference for Cultural Policies, held in 1982 in Mexico City, officially submitted it for approval. The UN National Assembly approved the suggestion and announced it on December 8, 1986.

The activities of the International Decade for Cultural Development will stress cultural identities and ways to develop them, increasing participation in cultural life and boosting international cultural cooperation.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation

(Unesco) has already contributed to the budget of the first two years of the decade.

Participants of the decade as well as international organisations are expected to hold numerous activities and programmes as the decade unfolds.

Undoubtedly, ten years are not enough to completely fulfil the aims of the project. However, it is important to have it as a starting point of more work and effort toward achieving the goals.

Success of the cultural decade definitely depends on the determination of the organising member states. Projects of the decade might be very much in the interest of governmental and international organisations, in addition to the bodies of the United Nations which could support implementation of some projects.

The International Decade for Cultural Development is regarded as a turning point in the history of the world.

Sheikh Salem in talks with Mellor

LONDON, March 4. (Kuna): Kuwait's Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah conferred on Thursday with British Foreign Office Minister David Mellor, concentrating on bilateral relations, the Iran-Iraq war and the Palestinian uprising.

The Foreign Office said that Mellor continued the discussions he began with Sheikh Salem during the British Minister's visit to Kuwait last December.

A spokesman for the department pointed out that the meeting was essentially by way of courtesy.

Yesterday Sheikh Salem, who is here on a private visit, held similar talks with his British counterpart Douglas Hurd.

Sheikh Zayed prepared to visit Iran

CAIRO, March 4. (Xinhua): President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Sheikh Zayed Sultan Al Nahyan has said that he is prepared to lead an Arab delegation to Iran in a continued effort to seek for an end to the Iran-Iraq war.

In an interview with Egyptian daily Al Akhbar published here yesterday the UAE President said that such a delegation comprising leaders of some Arab countries must have powers to speak on behalf of Arabs.

He said that the UAE, which has diplomatic relations with Iran would serve as a bridge between Iran and Arab countries for seeking an end to the Gulf war through dialogue, ensuring the rights of both Iraq and Iran.

Special licences for buildings banned

KUWAIT'S Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Mohammed Al Rifai announced that special licences for buildings would not be given and ordered the Municipality Building Department to follow the specifications and conditions regarding such licences as stated in resolution No. 30, 1985.

Licences for temporary buildings are also prohibited, he said, except under specified conditions. He explained that the new procedure would be effective from today.

National Day reception

CAIRO, March 4. (Kuna): The Kuwait Embassy here held a reception last night for the Kuwaiti community in Egypt, commemorating the 25th anniversary of Kuwait's National Day.

Ambassador Abdul Razzaq Al Kandari and the mission's diplomats received the invitees and their families.

Jassar calls for more efforts to end Gulf war

AWQAF and Islamic Affairs Minister Khalid Al Jassar on Thursday called for exerting more efforts to end the "flaring and destructive" war between Iraq and Iran.

In an interview with Kuna, Al Jassar said the Gulf conflict has absorbed all potentials of the two belligerents, Iraq and Iran, while hoping that Iran would respond to peace calls by the international community.

Tour
Rejection of peace calls, the minister stressed would result in "an all-out war that would threaten peace and tranquility in the region."

He said bloodshed should be avoided and efforts should be directed towards confronting the Zionists who kill children and women in cold blood.

Jassar, who is scheduled to

leave for Egypt today within the framework of a tour that will also include Malaysia, said his visit to Egypt aims at boosting relations between the two countries.

While in Cairo, Al Jassar will attend meetings of the Islamic Dawa (preaching) Affairs Conference, scheduled to begin next Saturday.

The four-day conference will tackle a number of scientific researches, he added.

Al Jassar said he will take part during his visit to Malaysia in the inauguration ceremony of the "Sungai" Grand Mosque and praised the ties between Kuwait and Malaysia.

During his tour, Al Jassar will be accompanied by Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Undersecretary Mohammed Nasser Al Hamdan and the minister's office secretary Faysal Ghattas.

Kuwait's financial aid to South Yemen praised

A SENIOR official in the Yemen Democratic Republic hailed relations between his country and Kuwait praising Kuwaiti aid and economic support to Aden, a Kuwaiti daily reported on Thursday.

Politburo member and secretary of the ruling Yemeni Socialist Party, Fadel Muhsin Abdulla told the newspaper that Kuwait is the first Arab Gulf country which started financial aid to Democratic Yemen whether directly through the government or indirectly through Kuwaiti Fund for Development or other financial funds and associations in Kuwait.

In a statement to the paper, the senior Yemeni official hailed Kuwaiti stands toward the Yemen Democratic Republic.

Concerning economic relations and trade exchange between the two countries, he indicated, "there are no economic relations in the comprehensive meaning of the word and this does not include Yemen and Kuwait only but the rest of Arab countries."

Abdulla expressed hope that relations between this country, the Gulf Cooperation Council

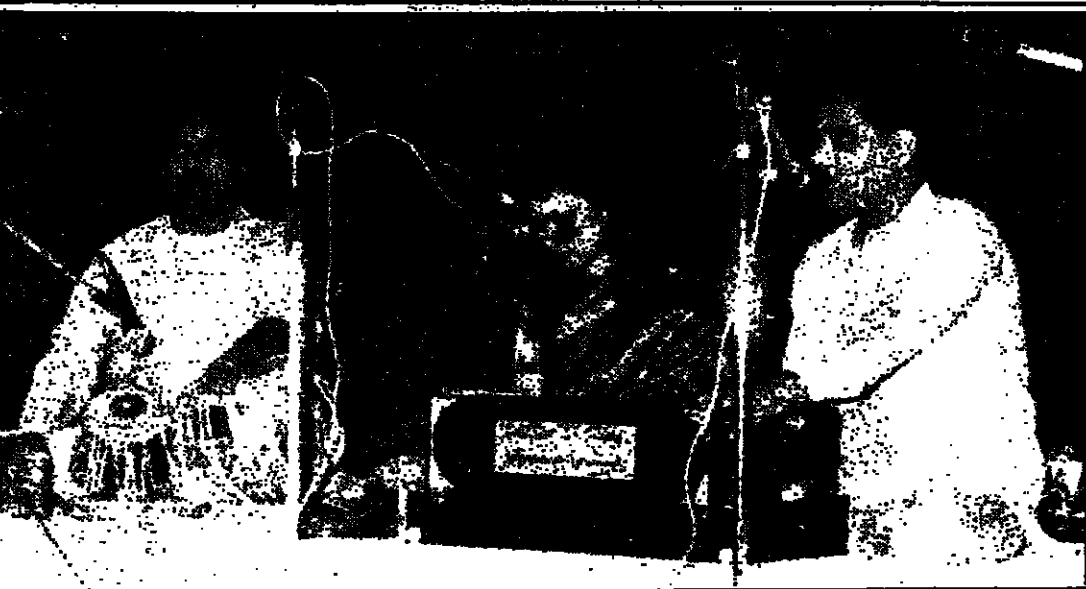
member states would develop and grow in the economic field.

Meanwhile, he recalled the January 13, 1986 incident in his country and said that "Aden has overcome it and that his country is currently in the stage of a comprehensive economic reforms and correction of development path."

Computer training course ends

TWO training courses on computer programming and computer technician development concluded on Thursday at the Computer and Microfilm Training Department at Kuwait's Ministry of Planning.

The Director of training Abdul Latif Al Nami said 667 programmers had graduated from the department since it had been established in 1977. He added that the department had organised several seminars on computer and microfilm use which were attended by 2,639 employees from government ministries and institutions.



● A large number of people attended the Sham-e-Ghazal, presented by noted Indian ghazal singers Jagjit and Chitra Singh. The one-night concert was held at the Kuwait Hilton. Picture shows the ghazal duo at last night's concert. (Photo by Mohammed Naef)

Agriculture in Bahrain suffers due to land reclamation

BAHRAIN, March 4. (Reuters): Land reclaimed from shallow Gulf waters has altered the face of this cosmopolitan island state — but at a price.

A building and reclamation boom sparked by oil wealth in the 1970s has left behind graveyards of dead palm forest and hit an underground water lifeline to the island's crops.

The rising water table, brought on by the addition of large chunks of coastal land, also threatens to engulf 5,000-year old ruins and a 16th century Portuguese fort.

Government officials say the overall effects of reclamation — which added 14 square kilometres of land to this small island — were positive, because it made room for a rapidly expanding population of 420,000.

But they concede the multi-million dollar project happened rapidly and piecemeal, creating unforeseen problems.

Causeway

"The boom came so fast no one plan could cope," said Habib Hassan, head of the housing ministry's planning directorate.

"It brought lots of things — money, ambition and development of the infrastructure needed for our society. But people looked at the locality, not the totality of the situation," he told Reuters.

Most of the multi-storey office blocks, government buildings and five-star hotels which serve the island were built on land which two decades ago did not exist.

So was its drydock, central market and many embassies and apartment blocks. Two man-

made islands form part of a 25-km causeway linking Bahrain to the Saudi mainland.

But environmental officials say dredging and reclamation wreaked havoc on both marine and land life, churning up layers of silt in the sea and blocking the natural drainage of water from coastal farms and palm forests.

"Reclamation has destroyed most of Bahrain's mangrove swamp areas which are vital nurseries grounds for shrimp, small fish and birds," said American Walter Vreeland, adviser to Bahrain's Environmental Protection Agency.

He said the expansion boom in the late 1970s probably also killed hundreds of date palms now standing desolately near Tubli Bay on the north-east coast.

"As far as I can see, the reason those trees died was because the natural drainage of the whole area was affected when they began reclaiming Tubli Bay," he said in an interview.

Tibor Enecz, Hungarian adviser at the agricultural ministry, said studies had shown every 100 metres width of reclaimed coastal land would raise the water table of nearby land by 10 centimetres. Farms in some areas had been affected by this, but the government had planned drainage systems to compensate and now developers are seeking advice before starting new projects, he said.

Reclamation began in the 1950s with a few small areas near a gateway known as Bab Al Bahrain (door to Bahrain) which housed the island's customs and immigration services at the

water's edge.

The newly-renovated building is now part of a heritage centre on Manama's busy government road, far from the sea.

Demand for new land sent prices in the coveted diplomatic area skyrocketing from 12 dinars (\$32) per square foot (0.1 square metre) in the 1970s to 150 dinars (\$400) in the early 1980s.

It also led to the creation of sanabis, a four square kilometre (1.5 square miles) chunk of land west of the capital, Manama, destined to become a residential and commercial area with its own private beach and marina.

The government is carving out pieces of sanabis for private citizens to compensate them for land lost during construction of a modern ring road circling the island.

Corniche
Another reclamation project, a narrow strip running three kilometres along the main King Faisal Highway, will eventually sport a lush corniche with trees and elegant landscaping.

Sadly, the Sanabis project may have endangered one of Bahrain's most important archaeological sites and potential tourist attractions.

French archaeologist Monique Kevran said silt from sanabis reclamation had been dumped directly in front of a 5,000-year old site housing several layers of civilisation, raising the water table to the walls of its 16th century Portuguese fort.

"The water is at the foot of the fort and has already begun to eat away at the walls of the Dilmun ruins," she said. "It is really disastrous and I fear for the future."



One of the graduates receiving the certificate.

Austrian official to tour Gulf

VIENNA, March 4. (Kuna): Austrian Foreign Ministry Secretary General Dr Thomas Klestil is leaving here tomorrow on a visit to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states to confer with the leaders of the GCC states.

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Bahrain and Qatar are the members of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

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EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

We are inclined to believe those we do not know, because they never have deceived us — Samuel Johnson, English writer (1709-1784).

Anti-Israeli uprising

Arabs use hospitals, schools as havens

By Mary Sedor

RAMALLAH, Occupied West Bank, (AP): Palestinian protesters in Israel's occupied territories have been using hospitals, schools and mosques as hideouts to elude arrests and as staging grounds for anti-Israeli riots.

Israeli analysts call the use of such symbolic institutions in the current conflict a purposeful tactic by Palestinians.

A dozen Arab teenagers erected a series of barricades 10 metres (yards) from the front of the Ramallah Hospital emergency room on Wednesday, then threw stones at soldiers.

The Army responded with tear gas. One canister landed in the hospital, forcing dozens of gagging patients to flee, covering their faces with clothing.

"Provoking the Army to enter a hospital is a propaganda coup for the Palestinians," said Brig. Gen. Arye Shalev, a former military commander of the West Bank.

In the war of public opinion, hospitals, schools and mosques are symbols. They are sensitive spots. To enter a hospital by force with bullets and gas looks very bad," said Shalev, of Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies.

Firing

Troops firing tear gas, rubber bullets and occasionally live ammunition have broken into hospitals in the West Bank and Gaza at least seven times since the unrest began 12 weeks ago, according to witnesses.

Troops shot two Arabs to death inside Shifa Hospital's walled compound in December after rioters used the courtyard as a fortress for hurling firebombs and rocks at soldiers.

In Nablus, nurses at Al Itihad Hospital said protesters frequently hide in the hospital after demonstrations. Last Thursday, the nurses helped two elude detection by dressing them in white nurse's jackets.

"We gave them white gowns like ours," said a 22-year-old nurse who declined to give his name. "They're lucky they were not asked questions about medicine. The soldiers do that sometimes, to make sure we really are nurses."

Young Palestinian riot leaders have also used mosques as refuges from soldiers, seizing control of some to attack Israeli targets.

At Nablus' Al Nasr mosque last Friday, an Arab youth led prayers while wearing a white cloth mask with eye slits to conceal his face.

Famine in Ethiopia

Civil war strangles relief programme

By Robert Powell

ASMARA, Ethiopia, (Reuters): Civil war between Ethiopia's Soviet-backed government and rebel guerrillas is strangling famine relief efforts in the country's northern provinces where millions of people face possible starvation.

Trucks have virtually stopped moving emergency food supplies into Tigray province and western Eritrea, and airlifts to remote garrison towns isolated by rebels have been affected.

"Frankly speaking, the main problem here is the conflict," one Western relief coordinator in Asmara said.

During the drought of 1984/85 up to one million Ethiopian peasants starved to death, but this time relief organisations ordered supplies of grain, beans and cooking oil in good time.

Civil war has prevented much of this food from moving out of ports and main towns to villages which need it.

Stocks

"We never have enough food anywhere to plan our distribution. It is always a hand to mouth operation. It is terrible," complained Max Wey, delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Tigray.

International relief agencies say food stocks are nearly exhausted in Tigray, where more than 1.5 million drought victims face starvation.

"In Adwa and Axum (towns in

Standing on the prayer pulpit beside the outlawed Palestinian flag, he shook his fists.

"This is the time we have to use the mosques to launch a holy war," he told 200 worshippers.

In occupied Jerusalem and the West Bank, mosque loudspeakers have several times broadcast reports that Jewish settlers were on a rampage, prompting Arab residents to pour into the streets. A Palestinian was killed in Tulkarem last month in a riot following such an announcement.

There have been several protests following Friday noon prayers at the Al Aqsa mosque in occupied Jerusalem, one of Islam's holiest sites. Witnesses said riot police fired tear gas inside the mosque after worshippers attacked a policeman in January.

Schools also served as staging grounds for protests until the Army shut them down in February. During the school protests, children as young as 6 years old would pelt Israeli troops and cars with stones.

While hospitals, schools and mosques have provided a measure of protection for Arab protesters, the tactic has also exposed bystanders to danger.

Ahmed Mahmoud Abdul Rahman, 20, who was recovering from an appendectomy at Al Itihad, said he was forced from his bed and questioned for half an hour.

"They took me onto the street. They hit me on the legs and kept asking, 'Why are you in the hospital?'" Abdul Rahman said. "Because I didn't have a cast or bandages or any obvious injury, they suspected I had thrown rocks and was hiding out in the hospital."

Doctors at Al-Itihad said troops broke into an operating room where a gunshot victim was being treated to search for Arabs suspected of throwing rocks and fire bombs.

Some injured Arabs stay away from hospitals for fear of being detained, Palestinian doctors say.

Ramallah Hospital director Yasser Obeid said soldiers struck him and another doctor in the chest and abdomen on Sunday when Obeid asked to see an order authorising the troops to enter the hospital.

Obeid said he saw the soldiers beat and detain a 10-year-old boy who had been in the doctor's office waiting for a check-up when the protest began.

"That boy had done nothing. He was in my office," Obeid said in an interview. "When I tried to explain to the soldiers, one hit me in the chest with his rifle."

Reserving

The government has been restricting fuel supplies to the four Hercules airlifting food from the northern city of Asmara to Mekele, besieged capital of Tigray province.

Western pilots and relief workers believe authorities are reserving fuel stocks for Soviet-built jets and helicopter gunships attacking rebel positions near the town of Adigrat.

The fuel shortage forced Hercules pilots to divert many of their flights to the capital Addis Ababa and the Red Sea port of Asab, reducing the amount of food they can airlift to Mekele by 25 per cent.

Embarrassment for President Mubarak

By John Rogers

CAIRO, (Reuters): Terrorism charges against a son of the late Egyptian leader Gamal Abdel Nasser, an Arab nationalist hero, have prompted a political furor and embarrassment for President Hosni Mubarak's government.

Coinciding with continued killing by Israelis of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, the case has given fresh ammunition to opponents of Egypt's peace pact with Israel and close links with the United States.

Khaled Abdel Nasser was among 20 people accused of forming a leftist group which killed two Israeli officials in Cairo, tried to kill another, and shot at two US security men in separate attacks between 1984 and May 1987.

Nasser, a 38-year-old engineer, faces a possible death sentence if convicted on charges of complicity, incitement and financing the "Egypt's Revolution" group.

He left Egypt last year and is self-exiled in Yugoslavia, where Cairo has sought his arrest through Interpol. Although opposition newspapers quote him as saying he will return to stand trial, diplomats believe he will probably stay abroad and be tried in his absence.

Since state prosecutors announced the charges on February 18, coffee-houses and parlours in the Arab world's largest city have buzzed with talk of little else.

Columnists in Cairo's mainstream state-owned press and in the deeply partisan opposition newspapers have joined battle over the ramifications.

"We haven't had a political story like this for years," said a veteran Egyptian journalist. "If it wasn't so serious, it would be a great soap opera."

And a trial date has yet to be

set. Political analysts said the case appeared to pose no major problems for Mubarak, but was embarrassing on several counts.

It gave Egypt's small but vocal left-wing a new hero and rallying point, reviving memories of the late President Nasser 18 years after his death and of his anti-American socialist ideas long after they lost official favour.

The timing was awkward. At a time when Israeli troops were killing Palestinians, the state was prosecuting the son of a man who led Egypt in two wars against Israel.

Concern This complicated Egypt's diplomacy just as other Arab governments were learning to live with its role as the only Arab state to have relations with Israel. Eleven have restored full ties with Cairo since last November.

Several Arab leaders were

reported to have voiced concern over charges against a son of "El Rais" (the boss), as Nasser was known when he dominated Arab politics in the 1950s and 1960s.

Nasser was revered by the nation at large, but especially by the Army, his power base. Then a colonel, he led the "free officers" who overthrew King Farouk in 1952.

Egyptians thought it significant that Mubarak chose a gathering of top Army officers as the forum for his first public comment on the case, assuring them: "This will not affect the name or history of Abdel Nasser."

Mubarak voiced regret over the case but said no defendant would get special treatment.

Among admirers of the late president who took action on hearing the charges against his son was Libyan leader Moammar Khaddafi, a foe of Egypt's peace pact with Israel.

He immediately offered

Khaled Abdel Nasser sanctuary, according to Arab sources in Belgrade.

Syria's Bar Association assigned lawyers to help defend Nasser.

Defence

A Cairo magazine reported former Algerian President Ahmed Ben Bella, a friend of the late president, had agreed to head an Arab defence committee.

And the Nasserite Cairo newspaper Sawt Al Arab, in a report that could not be confirmed from Arab embassies, named several other Arab leaders as having expressed concern to Mubarak.

Unconfirmed US involvement in unravelling the "Egypt's Revolution" case gave opponents of close US-Egyptian ties more ammunition.

Newspapers said police only broke the case when a defendant went to the US embassy in Cairo last year and divulged informa-

tion that led to arrests and prosecution. The embassy declined comment on the reports.

"Prime Minister — how come you let the US Embassy question Egyptians?" asked the left-wing weekly Al Shaab.

The press debate reflected deep hatred towards Israel among opposition militants.

Columnist Mohammed Abdel Qaddous, a member of the Muslim Brotherhood, said he supported Egypt's revolution.

It has always hurt me that the crimes of the Zionist enemy are only met here with protest at most... I was glad when someone came to evoke panic in the souls of the Israelis inside Egypt," he wrote of the attacks on Israeli officials.

Retorted Said Sombol, editor of the best-selling daily Al-Akhbar: "To suggest that there could be lawful or acceptable assassinations must be rejected altogether."



Blacks pitted against blacks in South Africa

By Brendan Boyle

EDENDALE, South Africa, (UPI): Death is everyone's neighbour in the lush Edendale Valley west of Pietermaritzburg. Fear is a constant companion.

"There have been so many deaths that most people have lost their sense of weeping," says local newspaper reporter Lakela Kaunda. "Weddings, soccer matches and parties have been replaced by funerals."

By knife, by gun and by fire, death comes almost nightly among the bony brick cottages and thatched huts scattered across the green slopes of the Edendale Valley.

The 450 dead have included an infant shot in his mother's arms, a 2-year-old burned to death, a 10-year-old beheaded with an axe and a 70-year-old couple found recently with their throats slit.

Rows of fresh graves bear testimony to the terror. Gutted homes mark the scenes of violence. The black Edendale Hospital overflows with victims of the ugliest factional war yet spawned by apartheid.

"The stores of human woe are unending," said a young American working to help the victims. "It is hard to believe that people can be so cruel to other people."

War

This is a civil war black against black, Zulu killing Zulu.

On one side among the area's 500,000 blacks is the ideal of a capitalist nation ruled by blacks and whites together, propounded by white South Africa's favourite black leader, Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, and his 1.5 million-member Inkatha Movement. On the other is the radical United Democratic Front blueprint for a socialist nation under a government elected by universal franchise.

Victims and witnesses charge that police are siding with Inkatha, not to impose peace but to ensure a Buthelezi victory over the UDF.

"Ultimately, we are reaping the fruits now of apartheid and economic decline," said editor

Richard Steyn of the Natal Witness newspaper. "Without a massive security force presence, I don't see it ending in the short term at all."

Each side accuses the other of keeping the slaughter going. "We don't fight," said Velapi Ndlovu, the local Inkatha chairman. "We don't attack people. If people come to us and they die it is their problem."

"Buthelezi says Inkatha does not attack," said Peter Kerchhoff, head of the Pietermaritzburg Association for Christian Social Awareness. "He says his people are defending themselves. But the warlords are not defending, they are going out and murdering people. There is no doubt about that."

Yet little in this vicious war is clear-cut.

Attacking

"It would be wrong to say that it is purely one side attacking the other," added Kerchhoff. "But, certainly over (recent) days, there has been evidence of increasing Inkatha provocation."

"What is coming out of this, too, is a clear picture in the minds of the people that the police are involved with Inkatha," he said.

That statement raises the most serious of the allegations arising from the black-against-black battles — that South Africa's police are actively on Inkatha's side.

"There is no doubt in my mind that Inkatha is the aggressor and that the police are working hand in glove with them," said the young American, who cannot be identified because his work violates the terms of his visa.

Police are believed to be holding 800 to 1,000 UDF supporters, detained without being charged, and none from Inkatha.

Police report the statistics of death each morning in a terse statement that belies the horror of murder and torture in Sweetwaters, Edendale, Imbali and Taylors Halt.

A 10-year-old boy was abducted. Police later found his body in a ditch. He had been beheaded with an axe," said the police report of last year's killing of Skumbuzi Shezi, son of a

UDF supporter.

The victim's own stories are more graphic.

Kwathula Mkhize, a small 13-year-old, tells without apparent emotion how a man he identified as Inkatha "Induna" David Ntombela and seven "warlords" shot and killed his mother and 11-year-old sister while he hid under a bed.

Gunshot

"I heard my mother saying she was going outside," he said. "I then heard Ntombela say to my mother that she should not move and should lean against the wall. I heard a gunshot and I heard her groan."

"A short while later, certain of them entered my room. I saw him aim his gun at my sister, Petronella, and fire one shot. She fell to the floor and I heard more shots. I remember her crying out. She lay bleeding on the floor. She was moaning."

Mkhize's older brother, Mangathe, says that when he went to the police he found Ntombela chatting with the officers. Mangathe said he was teased about his mother's death and was not allowed to make a statement until he had washed a policeman's car.

Ntombela was charged with murder, which he denied. In what was seen by Inkatha's rivals as evidence of police support for the movement, he was released on \$50 bail, with no trial date set.

Local Inkatha chairman Ndlovu says Mkhize's story, like dozens more recorded by pro-UDF lawyers, are "just fabrication," part of a UDF strategy to undermine Inkatha's credibility. Like Buthelezi, Ndlovu blames the outlawed African National Congress for the violence. The ANC, exiled since 1960 and dedicated to the overthrow of white rule, has denied it is behind the violence.

"The UDF people here are being controlled by the ANC," Ndlovu said. "Finance, weapons, everything."

Inkatha leaders have their own stories of terror against their members. They, too, can point out the charred walls of Inkatha homes gutted in midnight attacks.

East-West thaw in Gulf

By Warren Richey

ABOARD HMS BATTLEAXE IN THE GULF: The East-West thaw is beginning to reach the warm waters of the Gulf.

British naval officers in the region say that their regular contacts with the Soviet Navy's Gulf patrol have taken on a very cordial tone in recent weeks.

The turning point is said to have come just after Christmas when a Soviet warship in a highly unusual move radioed the British guided-missile destroyer York and wished the crew a "Happy New Year," and a "safe voyage."

Similar friendly radio exchanges have continued since. Early last month in an unprecedented example of cooperation, Soviet and United States forces conducted a joint search for a mine in the central Gulf after the Soviets warned a US warship of its presence in nearby waters. The mine was eventually located and destroyed by the Soviets with US help.

Dangers

The friendly Soviet posture is seen by British naval officers as an outward expression of Mikhail Gorbachev's new policy of openness and as fruit of the Reagan-Gorbachev summit.

Some suggest that the similar missions of Western and Soviet warships in the troubled waterway many help further ease global tensions between their naval forces.

Naval officers from both East and West share the same dangers and pitfalls from mines, Exocet missiles, hit-and-run speedboat raids, and even inadvertent attacks while patrolling in the tense region.

Partly in recognition of this, the Soviets have proposed creat-

ing a multi-national naval force to patrol the Gulf under the authority of the United Nations.

But Soviet motives aren't entirely altruistic. Their close coordination with sophisticated Western warships could help them discover sensitive details of the communications and detection capabilities of the Western navies.

In addition, the Soviets are pushing to increase their political influence on both the Arab and Iranian sides of the Gulf. They see a multinational force as a means of legitimising their own naval presence here while, in the same stroke, limiting the US Navy's role in the strategic waterway.

British officers say their contacts with the Soviets in the Gulf are much different than those with the tough and combative Soviet Navy they had grown accustomed to during patrols and manoeuvres in the North Atlantic.

Indeed, in the North Atlantic, the frigate Battleaxe serves as an antisubmarine warfare ship. Its primary job there is hunting and tracking Soviet submarines.

And from the Soviet point of view, their job in the North Atlantic is avoiding such warships.

"One of the most encouraging things is we have almost daily (radio) exchanges of a very courteous nature with the Russians," says Captain Colin Cooke-Priest, commander of British forces in the Gulf.

"When we meet them at sea they are scrupulously correct," he says.

"They really are very friendly," adds Commander T. J. Norman-Walker, captain of the British frigate Battleaxe. Much of the change in the

Soviets' tone is attributed to the fact that for the first time in many years the Soviet and Western navies are not in competition while carrying out their narrowly defined missions in the region.

"We all parade up and down (the Gulf) doing essentially the same thing," says Norman-Walker.

British officers decline to discuss the feasibility and level of effectiveness of such a coordinated Soviet-Western force under a UN banner. They say it is a political issue to be decided by politicians.

The Soviets, with a naval force of roughly six warships and support craft in the Gulf, escort three Soviet tankers leased to Kuwait and any other Soviet commercial ships.

In addition to helping protect Kuwaiti oil exports, the Soviets are believed to be using Kuwait for at least part of their shipments to Iraq. The Soviet Union is Iraq's primary source of arms and military equipment.

Anchored

At present, much of the Soviet Gulf force is anchored off the United Arab Emirates port of Khor Fakkan in the Gulf of Oman, north of

Qatar, escorting a commercial ship through the waterway. The Soviets deploy different ships to conduct the escort at different legs of the journey. One warship conducts the escort through the Strait of Hormuz. A second warship picks up the commercial vessel off Dubai and escorts it through the southern Gulf as far north as Bahrain, where it is met by a third warship for the last leg of the voyage through the northern Gulf to Kuwait.

The Christian Science Monitor News Service

Faces of the young haunt one in Belfast's desolate ghettos

By Paul Majendie

BELFAST, (Reuters): A bedraggled 10-year-old boy with ash all over his face helps his father hack scrap metal from the charred remains of a bus burned out in yet another Belfast riot.

A teenage British soldier spares not a glance for the passer-by. His eyes are fixed along the sights of his rifle, glancing warily up at the high-rise apartment block where a sniper could be waiting to end his life.

A raggedly dressed four-year-old boy passes aimlessly through the streets of a deserted ghetto, holding the hand of his two-year-old brother. It is almost midday but nobody else is up yet. What's the rush when you are jobless and

on the dole?

It is the faces of the young that haunt you in Belfast, where the authorities have to build corrugated iron fences between Protestant and Catholic neighbourhoods to stop them taunting each other. They are called "peace lines."

Burned

More than 2,600 people have been killed in the 20-year-old battle by Irish Nationalist guerrillas to oust Britain from Northern Ireland. Touring the ghettos of Belfast, you can almost feel the depression of the unemployed, the undying hatred of the sectarian divide.

Where Catholics and Protestants live on opposite sides of the

same street, dozens of houses have been burned down or blown up in what the Army call "inter-face areas." It looks as though some mad dentist has been round, tearing out buildings instead of teeth.

Someone has scrawled "no surrender" on the front of a gutted house which stands as poignant witness to one of the 20th century's longest-running guerrilla conflicts.

Each ghetto has its own postman, bread van and milkman. Bus routes do not cross communities. "Taxis who pay a revolutionary tax" to paramilitary extremists on both sides of the sectarian divide service each area.

Between housing estates "sniper alleys" offer gunmen an uninterrupted view down a 100-yard (metre) corridor, an ideal place to "take out" the last man in an Army patrol.

Stumbling upon the remains of the latest riot that did not even merit a mention on the news, a visitor from New York takes out his camera to photograph people with hacksaws, tearing off the remnants of a charred bus like vultures round a carcass.

Photos

Up rushes one of the unofficial demolition crew with the forceful exhortation: "Don't take photos. The Army could use them."

Ever present in the skies above you in Belfast are hovering Army helicopters that give the newly arrived visitor that "big brother is watching you" feeling.

An Army spotter plane swoops down low, looking for signs of disturbed soil that might indicate a recently buried arms dump.

Police stations look more like wild west forts with turrets on the side and wire mesh netting to catch rockets. One of the main ones is even dubbed by security forces and locals as "Fort Apache."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1496 — England's King Henry VII commissions John Sebastian Cabot to discover new lands.

1684 — Holy League of Linz is formed by Holy Roman empire, Poland and Venice against the Turks.

1770 — Crowds and British troops clash in Boston, Massachusetts, and incident becomes known as "Boston massacre" which hastens American revolutionary war.

1794 — Partisans of Jacques Hebert are executed in France; Polish uprising under T.A. Kosciuszko begins.

1796 — Revolts are crushed in Vendee and Brittany in France.

1798 — French forces occupy Bern, Switzerland.

1867 — Abortive Fenian uprising starts in Ireland.

1933 — Adolf Hitler and his Nazi Party win greatest number of seats in German elections.

1960 — President Sukarno suspends Indonesia's parliament.

1962 — European extremists in Oran, Algeria, raid prison and kill several Muslim political prisoners.

1966 — British airliner hits Japan's Mount Fuji, killing all 124 people aboard.

1970 — Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty goes into effect after 43 nations have deposited instruments of ratifications.

1974 — Ethiopia's leader Haile Selassie, confronted by continued unrest, agrees to constitutional convention to create new system of elected democratic government.

1975 — Arab commandos land on beach at Tel Aviv, Israel, shoot their way into the hotel and hold about 40 guests and employees hostage.

1987 — Strong earthquake rocks northern Chile, causing no injuries but damaging buildings and knocking out electricity.

MUSIC



Aretha's gospel truth

SHE's been crowned the queen of soul, but Aretha Franklin should also be anointed the godmother of gospel. With her altar ego at full throttle, Aretha not only sang for, but produced, One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism. She recorded the new double album over three 105 nights last July in the Detroit church where her father was pastor. It's her first gospel album since 1972's Amazing Grace. "This was my baby, my labour of love," she says. "I wanted to produce this album (her first) because I didn't think anyone was better qualified than myself. Those ladies in this business that want to produce, should. It wasn't at all difficult for me." Amen.

Slick moves

IF there's one thing about the 60s ex-Jefferson Airplane pilot Grace Slick could change, it would be the "naive assumption that drugs will get you to God." Now working to save the pandas and singing aboard the Starship band, Grace says that back then she and her friends assumed that because they were enjoying LSD, everyone else would too. "But," she says, "for someone living in the slums of Detroit who takes acid and sees a rat crawling up the wall — that turns into something very unhealthy. We were promoting something without any knowledge of who it did and didn't work for."

Sweaty showmanship, dazzling illusions

Jackson kicks off first US solo tour

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (UPI): With nearly 17,000 fans riveted to his every gesture, it took only a flick of Michael Jackson's right wrist to ignite his 11-piece band into the thundering groove of "Wanna Be Startin' Somethin'" and kick off his first solo tour of the United States.

By the time he peeled off his black leather jacket midway through the first song of the two-hour, non-stop set, Jackson had stripped away the side-shows of travelling chimpanzees and plastic surgery in favour of sweaty showmanship and dazzling illusions. When the lights came up 16 songs later, Jackson had dipped into nearly every phase of his 20-year career, and the Kemper Arena crowd seemed breathless and exhausted.

"My whole body was vibrating," said Ann Chinnis, 28. "He was a real performer. He gave a great show."

"I love it," said Jerome Clark, 21 who paid \$60 for his \$23 face-value ticket. "Michael's my main man. The show is chillin'."

The first of two Kansas City concerts sold out only on the morning of the show, and ticket demand outside the arena was light. Scalpers said they were disappointed. Few got even face value for their product.

Expectant

Inside, the crowd of 16,900 was more expectant than rowdy, and police reported no arrests and little trouble. Four video screens hung over the stage, providing those with distant seats a slightly better angle.

There were no visibility problems with Jackson's entrance, the first time he has performed live in this country without his brothers. A huge light-board pointed toward the audience was slowly raised, revealing Jackson and four male dancers frozen behind their microphones.

Jackson flicked his wrist, the crowd erupted and the pop superstar's first national tour was off and jamming.

From "Wanna Be Startin' Somethin'", one of a flurry of hits from Jackson's 1983 "Thriller" album, the 29-year-



Michael Jackson

old singer launched into "Heartbreak Hotel," a multi-layered predecessor of "Thriller" that Jackson wrote for his brothers' 1980 album "Triumph."

But instead of the dramatic horn section that powered "Heartbreak Hotel" and many other Jackson hits on record, synthesised horn sounds were used as a substitute. Jackson had two keyboard players reproducing a host of instruments and sound effects, along with two and sometimes three guitarists and four back-up singers.

When the six Jackson brothers toured as a family in 1984, also opening their tour in Kansas City, critics grumbled that the "Victory" tour did not differ much from the "Triumph" tour several years earlier. Jackson's rendition of "Heartbreak Hotel" had the same problem, with nearly identical choreography right down to a flashpot exploding at the same moment as it did four years ago.

Similarly, much of Jackson's detailed group choreography merely mimicked that shown on his video's from the "Thriller" and "Bad" albums. Though it seemed the show lacked spontaneity, Jackson's whirling stage presence overwhelmed any notion that the concert was stale or contrived.

Illusions

Indeed, Jackson stuck mainly to material from his last two albums, returning to his hits with the Jackson 5 only in a mid-show medley of "I Want You Back," "The Love You Save" and "I'll Be There." He passed over his teenage solo hits, such as "Ben" and "Rockin' Robin," and jumped back into adulthood with a revamped version of "Rock With You."

Banks of more than 3,000 lights spun lasers and darting colour across the 44-foot stage as Jackson led his guitarists through a fiery version of "Dirty Diana." It was the only song Jackson performed from the

"Bad" album that has not been released as a single.

Jackson used small tents at the side of the stage to work quick costume changes, as well as disappearing illusions in which he would reappear in an explosion on the opposite side of the stage.

Re-appearing one time in a monster mask, Jackson launched into the song "Thriller" with his dancers costumed as ghouls.

But for every gimmick or illusion, Jackson seemed just as happy to wander the two-tiered stage himself, with neither dancers nor musicians. The dancers stayed off-stage for most songs, including a seemingly self-engrossed rendition of "She's Out of My Life," in which Jackson stopped the song and pretended to weep.

Jackson hauled out his famed white glove for only one song, "Billie Jean," and performed his "moon walk" step during that song only. The red leather jacket and glittering white socks that Jackson made famous in the "Beat It" and "Thriller" videos were revived for those songs, with flashing lights replacing the jacket's metal studs.

The set ended with "Bad," as Jackson pranced to the back of the stage and played to the "restricted view" section. Jackson otherwise had little interaction with the crowd, besides an occasional "How ya doin'?" shout.

Jackson's only encore began with "The Way You Make Me Feel," and the woman he followed in song's video teased him around the concert stage as well.

Jackson closed with his latest single, "The Man in the Mirror," and his singing seemed more emotional and fresh than with his older hits. In true James Brown fashion, he fell to his knees and implored the audience to join him in an extended sing-a-long of the song's coda, "Make That Change."

"Whoever missed it, they missed the concert of their life," said Claudia Shaw. "It was like rhythm and blues, punk rock and hard rock all in one concert."

Grammy awards

U2 named best rock group

NEW YORK, March 4, (Reuters): Bruce Springsteen, Paul Simon and the Irish rock group U2 took top honours at the annual Grammy music awards on Wednesday night but Michael Jackson, who won no awards for himself, brought down the house.

Jackson had 6,000 celebrities and music world notables leaping to their feet at New York's majestic Radio City Music Hall when he sang two songs, including a driving Gospel number. But only the engineers for his latest record "Bad" took an award.

Paul Simon's Graceland, which features the South African group Ladysmith Black Mambazo and heavily uses African rhythms, was named the record of the year.

Bruce Springsteen, known as The Boss, won the best rock vocal performance award in the music industry's equivalent of the Academy Awards.

Springsteen beat such stars as Tina Turner and Joe Cocker for his album Tunnel of Love, a work that has been described as an extended Love song for his wife, model Julianne Phillips.

Best

The Irish group U2 was named the year's best rock group and their album The Joshua Tree was named album of the year.

Lead singer Bono almost forced the awards show into overtime as he started thanking everyone from John the Baptist to Gregory Peck to a sex therapist to President Reagan for the best rock group award.

But Bono turned serious when the group was given the album of the year award, saying he wanted to talk of such serious topics as South Africa, "but tonight is not the time for it."

"People who can't speak English seem to understand what we're trying to say. We set out to make music, soul music. It is not about being black or white but a decision on whether to reveal or conceal."

Whitney Houston was named the best Rhythm and Blues female vocalist of the year. She kept her "thank you" short, singling out her

fans, family and God.

The voters of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences dealt Michael Jackson a snub as far as awards went.

His album "Bad" lost to U2 and Sting beat him for best male pop music vocalist. He also lost out in the best rhythm and blues vocalist category to Smokey Robinson.

But he was a winner as far as the audience was concerned as he electrified them with a performance that included a throat Gospel song The Man in the Mirror.

Vladimir Horowitz, the legendary pianist now in his 80s, won a special Grammy award for his service to music and an award for his classical album Horowitz in Moscow.

The album was recorded in 1986 when Horowitz returned to his native Russia and performed there for the first time since coming to the United States just after the Russian Revolution.

"I am so thankful that classical music still has appreciation," he said.

The best jazz album of the year award went to trumpeter Wynton Marsalis for a second time. Diane Shur won in the female jazz vocalist category and Bobby McFerrin was named best male vocalist.

The best cast album award went to Les Miserables, the British show that is now one of the biggest hits on Broadway, beating "The Phantom of the Opera," the British musical that is Broadway's single biggest hit this year.

Rick Astley on top

LOS ANGELES, (UPI): The top 20 pop singles, based on Billboard's survey of broadcast play.

1. Never Gonna Give You Up — Rick Astley.

2. Father Figure — George Michael.

3. She's Like the Wind — Patrick Swayze.

4. I Get Weak — Belinda Carlisle.

5. Endless Summer Nights — Richard Marx.

6. Just Like Paradise — David Lee Roth.

7. Man in the Mirror — Michael Jackson.

8. Out of the Blue — Debbie Gibson.

9. I Want Her — Keith Sweat.

10. Can't Stay Away from You — Gloria Estefan and Miami Sound Machine.

11. I Found Someone — Cher.

12. Get Outta My Dreams, Get Into My Car — Billy Ocean.

13. Love Overboard — Gladys Knight and The Pips.

14. Hysteria — Def Leppard.

15. Be Still My Beating Heart — Sting.

16. Rocket 2 U — The Jets.

17. (Sittin' On) The Dock of the Bay — Michael Bolton.

18. What Have I Done to Deserve This? — Pet Shop Boys

and Dusty Springfield.

19. Girlfriend — Pebbles.

20. Hungry Eyes — Eric Carmen.

The top 20 albums

1. Dirty Dancing — Soundtrack.

2. Faith — George Michael.

3. Kick — Inxs.

4. Tiffany — Tiffany.

5. Bad — Michael Jackson.

6. Skyscraper — David Lee Roth.

7. Hysteria — Def Leppard.

8. Out of the Blue — Debbie Gibson.

9. The Lonesome Jubilee — John Cougar Mellencamp.

10. Whenever You Need Somebody — Rick Astley.

11. Nothing Like the Sun — Sting.

12. Whitney — Whitney Houston.

13. Good Morning, Vietnam — Soundtrack.

14. Cloud Nine — George Harrison.

15. Heaven on Earth — Belinda Carlisle.

16. Tunnel of Love — Bruce Springsteen.

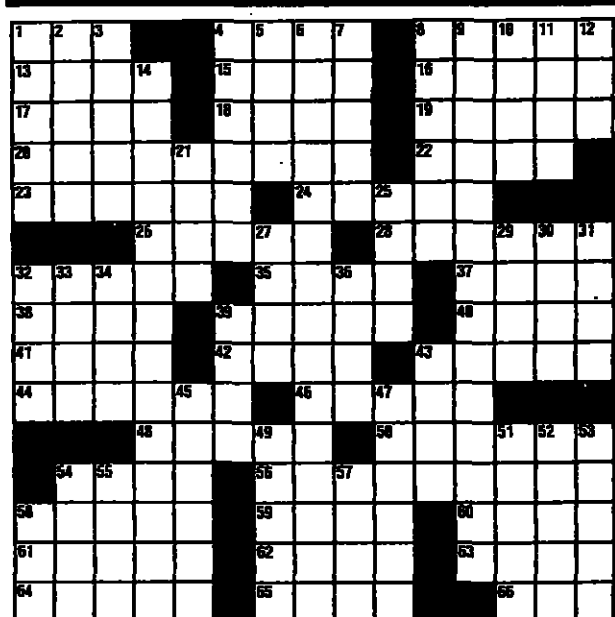
17. Permanent Vacation — Aerosmith.

18. Whitesnake — Whitesnake.

19. Blow Up Your Video — AC/DC.

20. Appetite for Destruction — Guns and Roses.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Copy
 - Basted
 - Floral perfume
 - Chart
 - Supplicate
 - Courage
 - Impulsive
 - Encouraging
 - shout
 - In Latin America
 - Show reverence
 - Captivates
 - Winners at Wimbledon
 - Renting agent
 - Kinshasa is its capital
 - Miyoshi of "Flower Drum Song"
 - Type of bike
 - Twinkled
 - Sicilian resort
 - Scarlett's home
 - X-rated
 - Jockey
 - Cordero
 - Deceit
 - District
 - Purse item
 - Valletta's island
 - Style
 - Syrian president
 - Hafez al-
 - Peak
 - Neighbor of 24 Across
 - Equal
 - Continental connectors?
 - Phil Silvers role
 - London apartment
 - 60 A "Godfather" star
 - Tyr. Balder et al.
 - Actress Best
 - Put-in-Bay's lake
- DOWN**
- "— in Paris"
 - Woodshop tool
 - Bridge positions
 - Orb
 - Greek god
 - Ditty from
 - Down Under
 - Lake in SE Africa
 - Capital of Turkey
 - Ruth Etting
 - Hawthorne, e.g.
 - Farewells, formerly
 - Electrical unit
 - Redford role
 - European capital
 - Type face: Abbr.
 - Casino choice
 - Author Roald
 - Part of QED
 - Baby's cry
 - Bridge feat
 - Zeus' partner
 - Author Wester
 - Birds' beaks
 - Estate unit
 - Sages
 - Pitchers' bane
 - Ottoman ruler
 - Less risky
 - Approaches
 - Sap
 - Actor Ed
 - Bridge support
 - Famed lioness
 - Sari wearer
 - Supermarket item

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

RAITS ASTAR COO
ALOT STENOS AMO
HONEYBUCKLE RIP
SHAME LEVANTS
ALMA AGE ERA
ERATO UNITES
LADD BOW STAIRS
ALA PARSLEY ONT
WINCES LAR ONES
SEDATE IRSEN
ERR PPS DADS
SALTINE AGILE
AMI FORGEMENOT
RIO YOKIELS RAFT
ANN KYRIE SHEA

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠ 8762 ♠ 72 ♠ 952 ♠ AJ72

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

2 NT Pass ?

What action do you take?

A.—Partner has issued a game invitation while showing a balanced hand. Since you have a dead minimum, you certainly intend refusing. However, you are still obliged to find the best contract and, with a known nine-card fit, the suit contract should be better. Correct to three spades.

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ Q76 ♠ 95 ♠ K1076532 ♠ 8

Partner opens the bidding with three no trump. What action do you take?

A.—Partner is describing a balanced hand of 25-27 points. If he has diamond support and top controls, slam should be a good proposition. Bid four diamonds, with the intention of bidding slam if partner shows interest. However, be prepared to end in four no trump if he does not.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ KQ8652 ♠ Q10 ♠ 2 ♠ QJ104

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

3 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass

4 ♠ Pass ?

What action do you take?

A.—Even though you have a partial misfit, your two honors in partner's first-bid suit make your hand too good to pass. A raise to five hearts is least you can do. Remember, part-

ner has shown a minimum of six hearts on this auction.

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ A5 ♠ AQ87632 ♠ 7 ♠ J92

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

2 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?

A.—You have only one story to tell, and you may as well tell it quickly. Bid four hearts. That not only describes the length of your suit, but your opening bid strength as well.

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ Q5 ♠ AKQ10943 ♠ AQ6 ♠ 5

Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you bid now?

A.—We would take our shot at four hearts. You are probably going to get a diamond lead, which will bring your total to nine. As little as a diamond ruff or the king of spades in partner's hand would produce the 10th trick.

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠ QJ9 ♠ KQ1096 ♠ J8 ♠ 63

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

2 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?

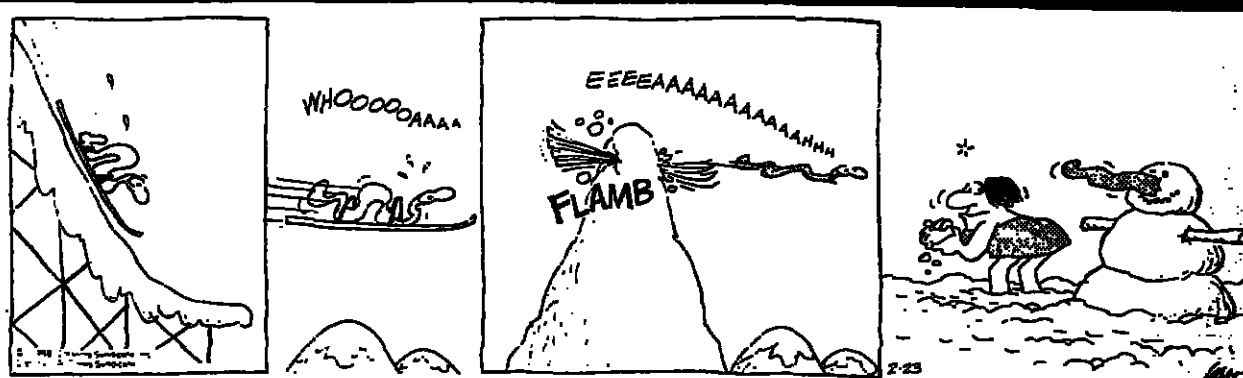
A.—You don't have to tell partner that you have a reasonable five-card heart suit. It is more important to advise him of your balanced hand that needs only a bit more than a minimum opening to produce game. The way to do that is to invite with two no trump.

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Passer and Johnny Hart



B.C.



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

Your personal life is under far better influences. You should pay attention and do not spoil a good opportunity out of bad humour. Make sure you get enough calcium in your diet. Be positive.



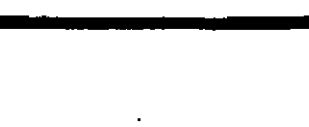
Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

An old friend will behave in what you consider to be a rather silly manner, but you should not laugh at him. Venus's favourable influence will help you to make things up. You must take care you do not eat too many sweet things. Be polite.



Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)

You will have some personal problems, but with a little more goodwill you will be able to deal with them. You will not feel quite your "usual self." Spend a little more time tidying up about the house. Be sensible.



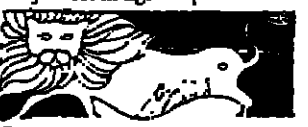
Gemini (May 30 - June 20)

The situation is improving by and by. You should take care not to spend more than you know you can afford. Keep your wits very much about you. Be moderate.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

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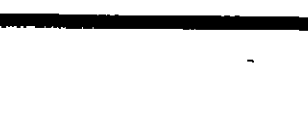
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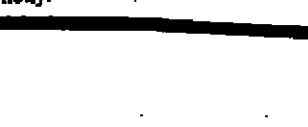
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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Bonn energy expert sees greater role for Opec

Study predicts \$30 oil by early 1990s

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts, March 4. (Agencies): A new study by the Harvard University Energy and Environmental Policy Centre says oil prices could rise from recent levels to \$30 per barrel by the early 1990s.

The year-long study, released yesterday, was partially funded by a consortium of Japanese government and businesses reported the Associated Press news agency.

Prices
According to the study, the improved economies of industrialised nations since the 1986 oil price collapse have discouraged conservation efforts and reduced oil stocks.

"Today's low prices sow the seeds for higher prices tomorrow by encouraging use, by improving prospects for economic growth ... and by lulling consumers, industries and government into energy security complacency," the report says.

It indicates that lower oil prices have also triggered a long-term economic growth rate of 2.5 per cent annually in the United States and three to four per cent

in Japan.

The study says as demand growth resumes, "higher oil prices cannot be far behind."

While governments have been increasing oil reserves, petroleum companies have reduced stockpiles due to higher demand, claims the report.

Meanwhile, most oil prices dropped another notch on world markets yesterday despite a denial by the UAE Oil Minister Dr. Mana Saeed Otaiba that his Opec nation had offered discounts to Japanese clients.

An early rally evaporated after an Opec spokesman in Vienna said the 13-nation organisation had "no plans at the moment" to hold an emergency meeting even though oil prices have slid by more than \$4 a barrel below its \$18-a-barrel benchmark price.

Production
"Unless oil prices drop another dollar or so, Opec probably will not call an emergency meeting," said Peter Beutel, analyst at Elders Futures Inc. in New York. "But if prices should plummet suddenly, Opec might not have a choice."

Oil prices began unravelling in early February when reports surfaced that the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries had raised its production and extended discounts to retain clients in the glutted global market.

New York-based Petroleum Intelligence Weekly reported this week that Opec appears to have cut output by about 500,000 barrels to between 17 million and 17.5 million barrels a day in the last week or so in a bid to shore up prices.

Otaiba dismissed as "absolute rubbish" a French magazine report that the UAE had promised to compensate Japanese clients losses sustained because of the widening gap between spot and Opec official prices.

The magazine, *Petrol Strategies*, said in its March issue Otaiba gave verbal assurances during a recent trip to Japan that if Japanese companies paid official rates, "the necessary adjustments would be made retroactively."

Otaiba told the UAE newspaper *Gulf News* that the Emirates "will not budge from its determination to help stabilise the market by sticking to the official Opec price of \$18 a barrel."

On the European spot market, where oil is sold to the highest bidder, the UAE's Dubai light — the key Opec crude from the Middle East — slipped 10 cents to \$13.30 a barrel.

Britain's North Sea Brent, the world's most widely traded crude, ended unchanged at \$13.90 a barrel — its lowest level since November 1986.

Trend
On the New York Mercantile Exchange, West Texas Intermediate — the principal US crude — fell 17 cents to \$15.50 a barrel after trading as high as \$15.86 early in the session.

Bucking the overall market trend, West Texas Intermediate gained 25 cents to \$15.65 on the US Gulf coast market.

But West Texas Intermediate still is at its lowest point since mid-December, when Opec reached a makeshift accord to

extend existing production quotas and its \$18-a-barrel benchmark price through the first half of 1988.

In the meantime, a West German oil executive in Hamburg predicted an increased role for Opec countries as world oil suppliers since demand was expected to increase by two per cent in the next decade.

"There will be better years ahead for Opec," according to Dr. Wolfgang Muller-Michaelis, general manager of the Hamburg-based Deutsche BP Oil Company.

He told Opecna yesterday that for the time being an oil price of \$18 a barrel was "satisfactory" for both producers and consumers, adding that the end of this year would certainly witness an oil market recovery.

His view, he added, was based on certain trends in the market and the production sector.

West Germany's Mineral Oil Industry Association (MWV) expects a slight but steady rise in world oil demand over the next few years, MWV chairman Hellmuth Buddenberg said yesterday.

Buddenberg told a news conference that he also expected crude oil prices to stabilise at about \$18 per barrel. Referring to the present oil price in Europe of under \$15 per barrel, he said "sooner or later the price will revolve around \$18 again."

Developments
"Further price developments depend on the behaviour of the Opec nations," he said.

Buddenberg said he expected world oil demand to increase into the 1990s by one or two per cent annually.

He said the present price weakness of oil on the world market did not signal the start of a price collapse like that of 1986. The weakness was caused by the full reserves held in storage by the oil companies.

Buddenberg said the world's secured oil reserves of about 120 billion tonnes would last for about 40 more years. Other exploitable and probable reserves were estimated at 800 billion tonnes and ensured supplies for a further 200 years, he said.

World Business Summary

Fed chief denies secret accord on interest rates

WASHINGTON, March 4. (Xinhua): US Federal Reserve Board chairman Alan Greenspan denied that the United States had reached a secret accord to keep interest rates at particular levels with its economic allies, according to press reports today. Asked in the Senate Budget Committee yesterday, if US officials had secretly agreed with other Group-7 countries on interest rate levels, since the US needs to attract foreign capital, Greenspan said "No." In late December, officials from the seven industrialised countries — the United States, Britain, France, Federal Germany, Italy, Canada and Japan — issued a statement reaffirming their commitment to coordinate economic policies in order to stabilise currencies. It was reported that the statement was followed by direct, coordinated central bank intervention in currency markets, and the dollar has been fairly stable ever since.

Of late, there have been suggestions that US officials will tolerate some strengthening in the dollar.

At a recent senate hearing, Greenspan said that stabilising the dollar and other exchange rates "is something we are seeking to achieve." The finance officials have no secret accord and they are "in fact coordinating our policies," he said.

US jobless rate drops to 5.7pc

WASHINGTON, March 4. (Reuter): The US civilian unemployment rate fell to 5.7 per cent in February from 5.8 per cent in January as firms hired more than half a million more workers, the government announced today. The Labour Department said 531,000 non-farm jobs were created last month, dwarfing economists' expectations of a 200,000 increase and providing fresh evidence that the economy was far from a recession.

Unemployment is now at its lowest level since July 1979. A year ago the jobless rate was 6.6 per cent. Although the surge in non-farm jobs in February may have been accompanied by seasonal factors, economists said the figures should banish any lingering thoughts that the economy is on the verge of a downturn. As such, the statistics are likely to give a boost to Republican candidates in this presidential election year.

Worries that businesses were cutting production to trim bloated inventories mounted last month because only 107,000 jobs were created in January. The US Central Bank, which watches the job figures closely to gauge the economy's strength, was concerned enough to nudge interest rates a bit lower in early February. The jump in new jobs last month easily outstripped the monthly average increase of 250,000 in 1987 and the 380,000 average monthly gain between October and December. Even January's weak increase was revised up to 174,000. Most of the jobs were added in service industries, such as business and health care. Construction employment also increased, but the number of manufacturing jobs was little changed, the government said.

Magical rise in carpet exports

BEIJING, March 4. (Xinhua): Business co-operation and contract systems in foreign trade firms have helped Chinese carpets win a larger share of the world market, "China Daily" said today. The country's carpet exports topped \$770 million in 1987 for the first time ever, a 28 per cent increase over 1986.

Chinese carpets account for about 20 per cent of the world carpet trade. Last year, about \$80 million worth of carpets went to the United States, the largest importer of Chinese carpets. About \$50 million worth of carpets went to Japan. The rest were sold mainly in Europe, Hong Kong and Southeast Asia.

Zhang Han, deputy general manager of the China Native Produce and Animal By-products Import and Export Corporation, attributed the increase to new management methods in both carpet enterprises and foreign trade firms. The government now allows carpet factories and export firms to establish business connections with counterparts in other cities and provinces. In the past, carpet exporters could purchase carpets only from local producers. The new method has promoted technical exchanges among producers and expanded sources of commodities for foreign trade firms, Zhang said at a press conference yesterday. An economic responsibility system implemented in carpet factories and contracts signed between foreign trade firms and their authorities have urged carpet producers to reduce costs to improve economic results, Zhang said. China now has 32 carpet exporters, six of which were established last year.

Dollar should not fall further, says Volcker

PRINCETON, N.J., March 4. (Reuter): Former US Central Bank chairman Paul Volcker warned yesterday against any further depreciation of the dollar as he took a part-time job as a professor at Princeton University.

The 60-year-old economist, who oversaw the US recovery from raging inflation and soaring interest rates in the early 1980s, announced his new post at a press conference held at the prestigious university.

"I think the dollar is at a competitive level now. We should not — and it is dangerous to — rely on more depreciation of the dollar," he said.

Improvement
"I think to make room for an improvement in the trade deficit we have to deal with the internal budget deficit because we are not going to have enough resources to support rapid growth and consumption and be able to handle the trade deficit at the same time. We got to release some resources for the export sector," the former Federal Reserve chairman added.

"The economy has been moving at a reasonable rate," Volcker continued. "Certain sectors of the economy are potentially strong, financially strong, including exports which are high, and there are some prospects for a pickup in business investment."

He said his Princeton post would be part time and that he planned to announce later that he had established what he called a business connection in New York.

Volcker used two terms as chairman of the board of governors of the Federal Reserve System, leaving the post in August 1987. He was replaced by Alan Greenspan.

Meantime, US Trade Representative Clayton Yeutter said the dollar was appreciated at present levels.

Yeutter said he sees good prospects for major projects in the US trade deficit "if we end the demographic term of an election year."

He said the price is competitive at existing exchange rates. We are in a position today where the demand for the dollar is the determining factor, he told reporters at a news address to the US/Kuwait.

China warns of serious credit shortages

BEIJING, March 4. (Reuter): China yesterday warned of serious shortages of credit this year as the Central Bank sharply cuts the amount of money issued in a bid to check mounting inflation.

Economists said the monetary system needed a major overhaul as banks — which pay low interest rates — could not attract enough deposits and were unable to lend to the most deserving customers.

The official People's Daily quoted Chen Muhua, president of the People's Bank of China, the central bank, as saying it would issue only 80 per cent as

much money this year as it did last year.

This means that shortages of credit will be acute, Chen told a meeting of branch managers of the Agricultural Bank.

For the last three years, China has issued too much money. Western diplomats estimate the money supply rose more than 20 per cent a year for the last three years, helping to fuel inflation.

Retail prices climbed more than nine per cent last year in major cities, one of the highest rises since 1949.

Chen said banks must find extra money for loans from the more than 100 billion yuan (\$27

billion) citizens have in cash and have not deposited in banks, where interest rates are now as low as three per cent.

Selective
Chen also told banks to be more selective in making loans, to stop lending to companies whose goods do not sell and to recover unpaid loans.

Western diplomats said Chen appeared to hope that a credit shortage would force banks to change their practices.

"Bank branches are influenced by local governments and still operate in their old ways. This reduces the chance of firms going bankrupt, avoid social dis-

order and distribute money on the basis of the same amount for everyone," he said.

A Western diplomat said that since Chinese firms do not fear bankruptcy and loans are made because of administrative pressure and not repayment ability, high interest rates would not check credit demand.

A Chinese economist said that spending power remained high because goods and services, such as transport, housing and electricity, are cheap.

He called for the development of a long-term capital market to soak up this spending power and divert it into production.

Credit cards to be offered in Soviet Union

MOSCOW, March 4. (Reuter): Credit cards will soon be available for Soviet bank account holders who last year got cheque books for the first time, the weekly Moscow News said today.

It quoted Mikhail Misko, head of a new state banking firm called Inturkart, as saying that cards would be issued later this year both for people holding rouble accounts and those with the right to save hard currency.

Misko said the cards would be similar to Western-style credit cards, bearing the name of the holder and a magnetic tape containing information about his or her address and salary.

Credit
He said card holders would receive monthly bills which they would have to sign and send to their banks for debiting. People who did not have a bank account could still obtain cards if their salaries were transferred to their credit card accounts.

Misko said each holder's credit limit would be determined by computer on the basis of salary size.

IDB loans now total \$7.27b

RAHADH, March 4. (Opecna): A new orientation of policies and strategies to strengthen cooperation among member states will be high on the agenda when the board of governors of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) meets in Tunis on Monday.

The board's 12th meeting, to be attended by finance ministers from the bank's 44 member states, will also discuss the organisational structure of the 13 year old institution.

IDB president Dr. Ahmed Mohammad Ali said in an interview that the bank had approved \$7.27 billion in concessional loans and assistance since it began operations in 1975.

Of the total, \$5.24 billion went to the financing of foreign trade operations, 1.84 billion to projects and 0.19 billion accounted for special assistance.

Project
He explained that project aid was extended by the bank in the form of loans or equity for the development of infrastructural and socio-economic projects.

IDB began its foreign trade financing operations in 1977 to help member countries import raw materials, industrial goods and other development-related commodities needed to stimulate domestic production.

As a supplementary measure, IDB last year introduced a longer-term trade financing scheme designed to promote the exports of its members, especially those of non-traditional goods.

During the Islamic year 1407, which ended on August 25, 1987, IDB approved a spending portfolio of \$714 million consisting of \$67 million for foreign trade financing programmes, 161 million for projects and 13 million to set up a fund for special operations, he said.

In addition to this, about \$26 million was approved to support four export operations under the longer-term trade financing scheme and another 23.50 million to finance nine short-term trade programmes, he added.

During the year, IDB also participated in 13 co-financing arrangements by supplying \$78.83 million, or more than 11 per cent of a \$79 million package.

Scheme
In the same year, a scheme called the Islamic banks' portfolio, was introduced to finance trade among IDB member countries, he said.

IDB contributed \$25 million to the portfolio's subscribed capital of 65 million, he said, adding that the main beneficiary of the scheme was the private sector in IDB member countries.

Companies in Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Turkey, Algeria, Tunisia, Iraq, Kuwait and Pakistan have so far taken advantage of the scheme under which \$31 million has been approved for short-term trading operations.

He pointed out that the bank always responded positively to emergencies in member countries such as natural disasters. In 1984, a \$50 million special programme was set up to help member countries in Africa's Sahel region.

He said that a pilot assistance programme would be established shortly in cooperation with the Saudi Fund for Development to meet the special needs of disadvantaged areas in the Nuba and Ingosana mountains of Sudan and in the Timbuctou region of Mali.

According to Ali, one of the tasks of the bank was the development of economic concepts based on Islamic principles.

Financial analysis programme

THE Kuwait-based Institute of Banking Studies (IBS) will open today a two-week financial analysis programme sponsored jointly with a foreign financial accounting firm.

About 20 officials from Kuwait Central Bank will participate in the programme, which seeks to familiarise bankers and financial experts with the latest office management techniques, high-tech methods and international financial indexes.

Foreign investment in US rises

WASHINGTON, March 4. (Xinhua): The steady rise of foreign investment in US businesses and real estate may turn out to be the "most controversial legacy of Reaganomics," said a signed article of the "Wall Street Journal" yesterday.

Already, the "selling of America" has become a hot topic among politicians and the press, it warned.

For more than 30 years after World War II, US multinational firms spread their capital around the globe, the article recalled. And now the nation finds itself on the receiving end, it said.

Investors
Six years of unprecedented US trade deficits have left foreigners with a wealth of American dollars, and limited interest in American goods, it noted.

Initially, foreign investors

bank accounts and treasury bills, the article went on. But increasingly, they're finding their interests better served by putting their dollars directly into US property and business — a trend that "startles many Americans" it said.

As recently as 1979, foreign direct investment in the US was only half the size of US investment abroad. But by 1986, foreign investors had nearly caught up with their US counterparts by investing \$25 billion in the US as compared with \$28 billion in new US investments abroad. Foreign investors apparently pulled ahead last year.

The article pointed out, "to some, this development suggests US economic powers is in eclipse. That may be true." But legislators are wrong in calling for measures to monitor and restrict

foreign investment," it said.

The article argued that foreign ownership of US real estate and businesses, although rising, still remains remarkably small. "Foreigners control less than 5 per cent of the nation's assets," it suggested. "Even if foreign holdings in this country double, they will still scarcely threaten US sovereignty," it stressed.

In addition, the article said, foreign investment is more a symptom of US current economic ills than a cause. "Any effort to curb the flow of capital from abroad would cause more harm than good," it said.

Ultimately, the article concluded, "the best way to reduce the flow of foreign investment is to reduce the trade deficit, and the best way to reduce the trade deficit ... is to reduce the budget deficit."

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"The Scorer of the Arabs"

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WORLD STOCK MARKETS

ARAB TIMES, SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 1988

International Bond Highlights

London — Asahi Breweries Ltd is issuing a 300 mln dir equity warrant Eurobond due March 23, 1993 with an indicated coupon of 4-3/4 pct and par pricing, lead manager Nomura International Ltd said. (RTWG 1101)

Frankfurt — Commerzbank International SA, Luxembourg is issuing a five-year 300 mln mark Eurobond with a five pct coupon priced at 100-1/2, lead manager and Parent Commerzbank AG said. (RTVP 1018)

Frankfurt — A new German Federal bond is likely to be issued later this month, but the launch date could be later than originally expected, official sources said. (RTWG 1126)

Frankfurt — Avon Capital Corp of New York, a financing unit of Avon Products Inc, is issuing a 10-year 170 mln mark Eurobond with a 6-1/8 pct coupon priced at 100-1/2, lead manager, J.P. Morgan GMBH said. (RTX 1421)

Düsseldorf — Union Bank of Germany is issuing a 50 mln Australian dollar, five-year Eurobond with a 13-7/8 pct coupon priced at 101-7/8, lead manager Westdeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale (WESTLB) said. (RTWG 1209)

Interbank Rates

CALL	ONE MONTH	THREE MONTHS
LDN 8-7/8 5/8	9 8-7/8	9-1/4 1/8
FFI 3.25/35	3.35/45	3.35/45
PAR 7-5/16 3/8	7-1/4 3/8	7-3/8 1/2
BUR 1/8 3/8	1-1/4 1-1/2	1-5/8 1-7/8
BRX 5.25	6-1/16 3/16	6-1/16 3/16
ROM 10 10-1/2	10-7/8 11-3/8	10-7/8 11-3/8
AMS 7-13/16 3-7/8	3-7/8 4-0/0	3-15/16 4-1/16
TOK 3.5625 6250	3.9375 4.0000	3.8125 8750
EDU 6.06 6.31	6.06 6.18	6.25 6.37

Interest Rates

FOLLOWING are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait yesterday.

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	4-1/16	4-7/16
3 months	4-7/16	4-3/4
6 months	4-5/8	4-15/16
1 year	4-3/4	5-3/16

FRANKFURT

STOCK	LAST PR-CLSE
AGF	225.0
ALLIANZ VR	1386.0
BASF	183.5
BAYER	242.5
BAYER NYP	263.0
BAYER VER	346.0
BBK	311.0
BHF	328.0
BHW	524.5
CHERIE-VER	0
COMMERZB	227.5
CONTI GUM	234.7
DALMEIER	694.0
DEUTSC BK	426.8
DLW	323.0
DRESNER B	246.8
DT BARCO	153.5
FAZ INDEX	0
GOLDSCHEID	237.0
GUTHOFF	0
HANSEATIC	392.5
HOECHST AG	253.5
HOECHST	108.1
HORTEN	174.0
HUSSEL HLD	428.8
KALI SALZ	143.8
KARSTADT	421.5
KLAUHOFF	368.1
KLOECK H	95.0
KLOECK W	0
LDN	571.0
LUFTHANSA	147.5
MAN	153.0
MANHESMAN	118.8
MERCEDES	549.0
METALLURG	226.5
NIDORFF PF	560.0
PHILIP WYD	46.50
PHILIP WYD	46.50
PREUSSAG	127.0
PREUSSAG	195.5
RHEIN	203.0
RHEIN P	198.8
RHEINMETAL	255.0
SALAMANDER	269.0
SCHERING	456.0
SEL	314.0
SIEMENS	377.5
TISSSEN	123.6
VARTA	253.5
VEBA	255.6
VEW	163.0
VOLKSWAGEN	246.0

TOKYO

STOCK	LAST PR-CLSE
AJUNOMOTO	3400
AKAI ELEC	535
ASAHI GAS	1020
ASAHI OPT	585
ASAHI OPT	588
BANK TOKYO	1550
BRIDGESTON	1430
CASIO CORP	1180
CASIO CORP	1270
CHUGA NG	0
CITIZEN	640
DAI NIPPON	3220
DAI NIPPON	815
DAI NIPPON	2600
DAI NIPPON	980
DAI NIPPON	484
DAI NIPPON	810
DAI NIPPON	1850
DAI NIPPON	2760
DAI NIPPON	865
DAI NIPPON	2490
DAI NIPPON	1540
DAI NIPPON	3470
DAI NIPPON	4140
DAI NIPPON	2030
DAI NIPPON	755
HITACHI	1370
HONDA MOT	1560
ISATAN	1380
ITO YOKADO	4200
JAP SUN RY	1080
JAPAN AIR	15000
JAPAN MET	450
KAJIMA	1630
KANSAI EL	3050
KAO SOU	1960
KAWASAKI H	340
KAWASAKI H	383
KAWASAKI H	2320
KAWASAKI H	437
KUBOTA LTD	696
KYOCERA	5420
MAKITA EL	1870
MARUI	3090
MATSUDA E	2410
MATSUDA E	2370
NETJI SEIK	958
NITSUBU CP	1260
NITSUBU EL	669
NITSUBU EST	2300
NITSUBU HYY	642
NITSUBU CO	789
NITSUBU	1580
NITSUBU EL	1260
NITSUBU	1320
NITSUBU	875
NITSUBU	2120
NITSUBU	2090
NITSUBU	361
NITSUBU	1230
NITSUBU	441
NITSUBU	602
NITSUBU	877
NITSUBU	4000
NITSUBU	1000
NITSUBU	1120
NITSUBU	896
NITSUBU	2190
NITSUBU	820
NITSUBU	1280
NITSUBU	2220
NITSUBU	526
NITSUBU	2450
NITSUBU	1960
NITSUBU	1000
NITSUBU	1070
NITSUBU	5000
NITSUBU	1130
NITSUBU	990
NITSUBU	1210
NITSUBU	3200
NITSUBU	820
NITSUBU	89.11
NITSUBU	2100
NITSUBU	1120
NITSUBU	1160
NITSUBU	5880
NITSUBU	6070
NITSUBU	826
NITSUBU	770
NITSUBU	2300
NITSUBU	447
NITSUBU	2310
NITSUBU	1110
NITSUBU	2110
NITSUBU	4110
NITSUBU	1530

Tokyo Stock Market Report

DOLLAR CLOSES LITTLE CHANGED IN DOLL TOKYO TRADE
TOKYO, MARCH 4, REUTER — THE DOLLAR FINISHED LITTLE CHANGED AGAINST MAJOR CURRENCIES IN LARGELY TECHNICAL AND TYPICALLY THIN PRE-MARKET TRADING IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY MARKET-MOVING FACTORS, DEALERS SAID.

"WE HAVE NOT DONE ANYTHING TODAY. IF THE DOLLAR SHOWS ANY BIG MOVEMENT, IT WILL NOT BE UNTIL MID-MARCH WHEN THE U.S. JANUARY TRADE AND INVISIBLE TRADE DATA ARE DUE TO BE RELEASED," A SENIOR DEALER AT A U.S. BANK SAID.

THE DOLLAR WAS CONFINED TO A TIGHT RANGE OF 0.14 YEN TODAY. IT CLOSED AT 129.22 YEN AND 1.6943/48 MARKS AGAINST 129.15/20 AND 1.6940/50 IN NEW YORK.

TOKYO STOCKS CLOSE SLIGHTLY FIRMER IN ROBUST TRADE
TOKYO, MARCH 4, REUTER — SHARE PRICES CLOSED SLIGHTLY HIGHER IN STRONG ACTIVITY DUE TO AGGRESSIVE TRADE OF LARGE CAPITALISATION ISSUES, ALTHOUGH THE APPROACHING END OF THE FISCAL YEAR MAY BEGIN TO TEMPER INTEREST, BROKERS SAID.

"THE MARKET MAY GET WEAK IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MONTH, WHEN MANY LARGE INVESTORS WILL BE CLOSING THEIR BOOKS," SAID A FUND MANAGER AT A MAJOR JAPANESE BANK. "BUT THE FUNDAMENTALS ARE STILL STRONG."

THE NIKKEI INDEX FIRMED 19.13 POINTS, OR 0.07 PCT, TO 25,615.62. IT FELL 86.51 POINTS ON THURSDAY, ADVANCES ALMOST MATCHED DECLINES IN HEAVY VOLUME OF 1.3 BILLION SHARES.

PHARMACEUTICALS, RUBBER, ROLLING STOCK, STEEL, GAS, AIRLINE, ELECTRONIC AND FOOD SHARES ROSE.

SECURITIES HOUSE, NON-LIFE INSURANCE, COMMUNICATIONS, RAILWAY/BUS, WAREHOUSE AND REAL ESTATE ISSUES FELL.

DESPITE A SLIGHT MARKET DROP ON THURSDAY, LARGE CAPITALS CONTINUED TO ATTRACT ATTENTION. THIS WAS REFLECTED IN THE CONSIDERABLE VOLUME UP FROM THE 1.1 BILLION SHARES TRADED ON THURSDAY, BROKERS SAID.

THE TOP 10 TRADED STOCKS IN THE MORNING, CONSISTING PRIMARILY OF STEEL AND HEAVY MACHINERY SHARES, MADE UP 58.8 PCT OF THE TOTAL MORNING 520 MLN SHARE TURNOVER.

THE DAILY VOLUME HAS EXCEEDED ONE BILLION SHARES FOR FOUR CONSECUTIVE SESSIONS, AND BROKERS SAID THIS IS A SIGN OF MORE-THAN-AMPLE LIQUIDITY.

IF EXPENSIVE SHARES SUCH AS FINANCIALS ARE BOUGHT, THEIR HEAVY WEIGHT ON THE INDEX WOULD BRING THE OVERALL MARKET UP AND SPUR PROFIT-TAKING.

FUND MANAGERS WANT TO KEEP THE MARKET STEADY SO THEY WILL NOT HAVE TO PULL OUT OF EQUITIES, BROKERS SAID.

INVESTING IN LARGE CAPITALS DOESN'T MOVE THE INDEX MUCH, AND BUYING AND SELLING CAN BE DONE SMOOTHLY WITHOUT DISRUPTING MARKET CALM, THEY ADDED.

Hong Kong Market Report

HONG KONG, MARCH 4, REUTER — LIGHT BARGAIN HUNTING EMERGED IN THE AFTERNOON TO PUSH SHARE PRICES TO CLOSE AROUND THE DAY'S HIGHS, BROKERS SAID.

THE HANG SENG INDEX ROSE 3.90 POINTS TO FINISH THE DAY AT 2,472.38 AFTER FALLING NEARLY 20 POINTS INITIALLY. THE HONG KONG INDEX GAINED 4.86 TO 1,619.26. TURNOVER WAS 779.46 MLN H.K. DLSR AGAINST 865.35 MLN DLSR THURSDAY.

BROKERS SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S 1988/89 BUDGET PRESENTED ON WEDNESDAY WAS GENERALLY WELL RECEIVED AND SUPPORTED SENTIMENT. WHILE LIGHT PROFIT TAKING SLOWED THE MARKET'S ADVANCE THE DOWNSIDE RISK APPEARED LIMITED, THEY ADDED.

AMMAN

As of 2/3/88	OPNG	CLSE
AL HIMME MINERALS	0.79	0.79
AL-NISER EXCHANGE	0.89	0.90
ALA-ADDIN COMPANY	1.34	1.38
ARAB ALUMINUM IND.	1.90	1.90
ARAB BANK	118.5	118.5
ARAB CHEMICAL DTER	4.32	4.35
ARAB FINANCE CORP.	1.47	1.48
ARAB INSURANCE	1.00	1.00
ARAB INT. INV/TRADE	0.95	0.96
ARAB INT. UNION INS	0.53	0.58
ARAB INTER. HOTELS	2.09	2.10
ARAB JOR/INVEST/BK	0.34	0.35
ARAB PAPER CON/TRD	2.09	2.12
ARAB PHARMA.MANF.	0.76	0.75
ARAB PHARMA/CHEN	1.65	1.65
ARABIAN SEAS INS.	16.30	16.31
BANK OF JORDAN	1.00	0.95
BELGIUM INSURANCE	30.00	30.00
CAIRO AMMAN BANK	0.40	0.40
DAR AL SHAAB PRESS	1.47	1.47
DAR ALDAMA DV/INV.	0.44	0.44
DARCO/INVEST/HOUS.	0.62	0.62
DEVELOP/INVEST/FAS.	0.60	0.61
FINANCE/CREDIT/COR	2.39	2.63
GENERAL INSURANCE	1.34	1.33
GENERAL INVESTMENT	1.50	1.50
GENERAL MINING	1.15	1.20
HOLD LAND INS.	0.72	0.72
IND. MATCH JENCO	1.31	1.31
INDSTR. DEVLPT BNK	1.51	1.50
INDSTR/COMM/AGR.	1.49	1.50
INDUSTRIAL INVEST	0.64	0.64
INTERMED/PETRO/CH	0.96	0.96
INTERCOM/INV/IN	0.64	0.64
IRBID ELECTRICITY	0.64	0.64
ISLAMIC INV. HOUSE	3.50	3.20
J.PRESS FOUNDATION	1.28	1.28
JERUSALEM INS.	13.50	13.55
JO TOBACCO/CTGARET	1.05	1.04
JOR CEMENT FACT.	1.07	1.05
JOR CERAMIC FACTOR	25.01	25.05
JOR EAGLE INS.	1.48	1.48
JOR ELECTRIC POWER	1.20	1.20
JOR FINANCE HOUSE	1.03	1.03
JOR GLASS INDUSTRIES	2.50	2.50
JOR HOTEL TOURISM	1.65	1.72
JOR INDUSTRY CHEM.	1.20	1.20
JOR INS AND FIN.	0.22	0.24
JOR LINE AND BRICK	2.43	2.43
JOR MANAG/CONSULT	3.00	3.03
JOR NATIONAL BANK	2.40	2.40
JOR PAPER CARDBRGG	1.17	1.18
JOR PHOSPHATE MINS	2.15	2.05
JOR PRESS/PUBLISH.	3.00	3.65
JOR PRINTING/PACK.	0.66	0.66
JOR ROCK WOOL IND.	0.91	0.91
JOR SECURIT. CORP.	0.17	0.17
JOR TIMBER PROCES.	1.32	1.32
JOR WOOD INDUSTRY	4.50	4.50
JOR WORSTED MILL	7.10	7.10
JOR. PETROLEUM REF	5.90	5.90
JOR. FRENCH INS.	1.85	1.85
JOR. INV. FIN. CORP.	1.00	1.00
JOR. KAW. CO. AGRE.	3.65	3.65
JORDAN BREWERY	1.02	1.02
JORDAN DAIRY	1.21	1.20
JORDAN GULF BANK	0.93	0.93
JORDAN GULF INS.	0.33	0.33
JORDAN GULF REAL	13.85	13.90
JORDAN ISLAMIC BNK	1.79	1.76
JORDAN KUMAIT BANK	1.60	1.60
JORDAN TANNING	1.92	1.90
LIVESTOCK/POULTRY	0.72	0.74
MAS INDUSTRIES	0.69	0.73
MIDDLE EAST HOTEL	60.00	60.00
MIDDLE EAST INS.	0.60	0.60
MINERALS RESEARCH	1.60	1.66
NAT. FIN. INVEST CO	1.00	0.99
NAT/CABEL/MIRE/MF	1.28	1.28
NATIONAL AHLIA INS	0.50	0.50
NATIONAL INDUSTRY	0.80	0.81
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO	2.75	2.73
NATIONAL STEEL	0.87	0.87
NTL SHIPING LINE	0.25	0.28
ORIENT DRY BATTERY	2.05	2.05
PETRA BANK	0.67	0.67
PETRA ENTERPRISES	0.50	0.50
PETRA JOR. INS.	0.69	0.68
PHILADELPHIA INS.	0.80	0.80
RAFFIA INDUSTRIES	0.43	0.42
REAL ESTATE INV.	0.93	0.93
SPINNING WEAVING	1.60	1.60
THE HOUSING BANK	2.50	2.50
UNITED INSURANCE	1.85	1.81
UNIVERSAL CHEM. IND	0.73	0.73
UNIVERSAL INS.	0.87	0.86
WOOLEN INDUSTRIES	1.10	1.10
YARMOUK INSURANCE	0.87	0.86

PHILIPPINES MAKATI

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	BC-A	70.00	73.00
STOCK	BUY	SELL	
AC-A	9.20	9.10	9.20
ANSCOR	4.85	4.85	4.90
FER	2.50	2.50	2.55
GLO	31.50	31.00	31.50
PLDT	145.00	144.00	145.00
KPSI-A	1.40	1.70	BP-B
SNC-A	123.00	123.00	124.00
SNC-B	135.00	139.00	140.00
NINING SECTOR			
APX-A	0.32	0.33	0.33
APX-B	0.32	0.33	0.33
AT-A	20.50	20.50	20.75
AT-B	20.50	20.50	20.75

Makati Stock Market Report

OFFICIAL INFORMATION	SHARES	VALUES	AVERAGES	CHANGES
COMM.-IND.	213,070	3,340,340	753.06	6.02 D
NINING	79,052,500	5,995,600	5,095.92	58.90 D
OIL	193,200,000	5,518,300	6.136	0.297 W
TOTAL	272,445,570	14,845,240	786.00	17.87 N

PHILIPPINES MANILA

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	BC-A	70.00	72.00
STOCK	BUY	SELL	
SNC-A	124.00	124.00	125.00
ADP1-A	59.00	59.00	59.00
ANSCOR	4.85	4.85	4.90
AC-A	9.10	9.10	9.10
FERT-A	2.50	2.40	2.50
FERT-B	2.55	2.50	2.55
GLO	31.50	30.00	31.50
PLDT	145.00	144.00	145.00
SDITRE	27.00	26.50	27.00
STOCK	BUY	SELL	
APX-A	0.32	0.33	0.33
APX-B	0.33	0.33	0.33
AT-A	20.50	20.25	20.50
AT-B	22.00	21.75	22.00

Manila Stock Market Report

OFFICIAL INFORMATION				
SECTOR	SHARES	VALUES	AVERAGES	CHANGES
C/I	383,640	4,800,590	743.05	D 6.62
MINING	190,506,500	12,553,080	4,521.90	D 84.09
OILS	293,100,000	7,858,050	6.447	W .313
TOTAL	483,990,140	25,211,720	768.77	N 19.93

Gold gains

Dollar, shares steady in quiet trade

LONDON, March 4, (Reuters): The dollar and share prices held steady today as investors shrugged off news that far more Americans found jobs in February than had been expected and that Brazil had agreed to reschedule its debt.

Dealers said the US report that 531,000 Americans found non-farm jobs — five times the January increase in employment — suggested that the US economy is likely to keep growing strongly. But even so, the dollar was unchanged at 129 yen and just above 1.69 West German marks.

Signal
Nor did international investors see much of an immediate signal to buy dollars in today's news that Brazil agreed to reschedule its debt — even though it should ease fears about the threat posed by Third World debt to the financial system.

In Rio De Janeiro, a Finance Ministry spokesman said Brazil

and its commercial creditors agreed to reschedule \$67.5 billion of debt over a 20 year period.

Payments

Brazil had frozen payments on this debt a year ago, raising fears that the debt crisis was entering a new, and more dangerous phase. It and its bankers have been negotiating terms for a resumption of payments.

Shares in the banks to which Brazil owes money were also little changed.

Gold was fixed in London today at \$430.75 an ounce, up \$1.65 from yesterday's rate. Oil prices were also steady, with Brent crude oil from the North Sea quoted at around \$13.90 a barrel for March delivery.

London's FTSE index of 100 blue chip shares rose more than 20 points by mid-afternoon, going above 1,835. In Tokyo, the world's biggest stock market, the 225-share Nikkei index closed

just 19.13 points up at 25,615.62.

Trading was subdued in most markets. "The market's drifting. Volume yesterday was peanuts and today there's nothing to give a firm lead," a Paris share dealer said.

Willing

The reason, dealers say, is that few investors are willing to take positions in any financial markets, fearing to guess wrong about prospects for the global economy and unwilling to put too much faith in any recent economic data.

Dealers said the US jobs gains reported today — which pushed the US unemployment rate down to 5.7 per cent in February from 5.8 per cent in January — could be read as frightening prospects for growth.

But some fear fast growth could mean more spending on imports, keeping the massive US

trade deficit from falling.

Their main worry is still that the United States is spending more dollars than the rest of the world wants to hold.

Until they see clearer signs that this is not so, many are stashing funds in high interest rates pound sterling bank accounts — enough, in fact, to worry the Bank of England, which was selling pounds to keep them trading below three marks.

Shares

Meanwhile, Dutch shares eased, with the CBS All-Share index down 0.2 to open at 80.2, while Paris shares slipped 0.6 per cent. In Zurich, the All-Share Swiss index fell 6.2 points to 850. Milan's MIB index fell 1.6 per cent.

Frankfurt shares eased, with the 30-share Boersen-Zeitung index fell 1.5 points lower at 290.68.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng index

edged 3.90 points higher to 2,472.38. Singapore shares were mixed, while Sydney's all-ordinary index rose 5.1 points to 1,298.5.

Britain's central bank intervened in the currency market yesterday selling pounds for marks when sterling threatened to appreciate too strongly against West Germany's currency, dealer reported.

London currency dealers said the Bank of England acted when sterling seemed likely to rise above three marks. The market believes the bank will try not to let sterling go further than that, for fear it could begin to price British exports off foreign markets.

Investors have been buying pounds because Britain's relatively high interest rates make sterling accounts a rewarding lodging place for their money at the moment.

Expected UK budget surplus raises tax-cut hopes

LONDON, March 4, (AP): When Britain's top Treasury official hoists his "budget box" this month, the battered, scarlet-leather container is expected to contain a rare thing indeed: a budget surplus.

That surplus is raising expectations of big tax cuts — and controversy over whether the government should be using the surplus for tax cuts or improved social programmes.

Anything could happen in the next two weeks, and the budget may turn out very different from what is now forecast.

But for the moment, analysts are assuming a tax cut is likely, and the government's critics are already claiming the new budget will be a gift to the rich at the expense of the poor.

Contents
Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson, who isn't talking publicly about the budget, will reveal its contents in the House of Commons after posing with the budget box in Downing Street,

where he and the prime minister have their official residences.

Last autumn, the government announced planned expenditures of £156.8 billion for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1989, and on budget day it will reveal how it will raise and spend the money.

For the first time in almost 20 years, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government might also be reporting a budget surplus for the current fiscal year, which ends March 31, said a Treasury spokesman, who wasn't identified, in accordance with British custom.

Forecast

The government expects to outperform its most recent forecast of a deficit of £1 billion which was down from a previously forecast deficit of £4 billion he said.

"It will probably turn out to be a surplus," said Diane Goyoe, UK economist for the private forecasting firm DRI Europe.

"Very definitely a surplus,"

said Anthony Thomas, an economist at the London investment firm Kleinwort Greaveson Ltd.

The surplus will be \$1 to 3 billion the economists estimated. The surplus results from the government's tight grip on spending, its buoyant tax receipts and proceeds from its giant and continuing programme of selling off billions of pounds' worth of state-owned companies to the public.

Cuts

But using the surplus for tax cuts — part of Mrs Thatcher's long-term, sweeping reform of the tax system — would be highly controversial in a country where a welfare state prevails despite the prime minister's capitalist revolution.

"The government is bracing itself for the charge that ... it will be introducing a 'rich man's budget,'" the Observer newspaper wrote.

Critics of Mrs Thatcher's tight spending policies already have raised a furor, demanding, for

instance, that any extra money go to the National Health Service rather than toward reducing tax rates.

In February, nurses staged a one-day walkout to protest the state of the health service, which has some 700,000 people waiting for surgery at state hospitals.

Spending

Other critics fear that cuts could spur consumer spending enough to ignite inflation and force up interest rates.

There are predictions that the government could slash the top income tax rate of 60 per cent — for those earning more than £41,200 — to 50 per cent or even lower. This would be the biggest cut in almost 10 years.

Thomas said there was speculation that Lawson would cut it below 50 per cent.

"We suspect he will want to do those cuts over an extended time period," Thomas said. "It will seem like too much of a giveaway (otherwise)." The Times of London said

Lawson might slash the rate to as low as 35 per cent, adding: "The Chancellor has been stung by criticisms from his own (Conservative) party that President Reagan's tax reforms in the US have overtaken Britain with a simplified system."

Unchanged

In her first budget, in June 1979, Mrs Thatcher cut the top rate from 83 per cent to 60 per cent. It has remained unchanged since.

In the United States, the top federal income tax rate is 33 per cent this year, although for most individuals, the maximum rate is 28 per cent.

Lawson also is expected to cut the lowest tax rate, which applies to income up to \$17,900 to 25 per cent from 27 per cent. That rate stood at 33 per cent in 1979.

The budget proposals must be approved by parliament, but they are assured of passage because of the Conservative Party's 102-seat majority in the 650-seat House of Commons.

Indian trade fair in Bahrain

AN Indian trade exhibition will be held at the Exhibition Centre in Bahrain from March 26 to April 4. Coinciding with this the NRI Investors Group Bahrain, UAE, and Kuwait will organise a joint seminar for the NRIs on March 31. NRI representatives from Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar and Kuwait will take part.

The exhibition will provide business opportunities in various fields such as automobiles, including auto parts suitable for foreign-made cars, electronic communication equipment, computer software, household electrical appliances, hardware, sanitary fittings, cotton textiles and hosiery items, readymade garments and other made-ups of cotton, polyester, dress materials, processed/canned foods, artificial and silver jewellery, Indian perfumes, handicrafts, carpets etc.

C. Hari Kumar, joint controller of Reserve Bank of India, during his recent visit to the Gulf had pointed out that the inflow of NRI funds from Middle East account for 60 to 70 per cent of the total remittances.

As such it is clear that the NRIs from the Gulf have wholeheartedly contributed their savings in various investments in India.

India has considerably liberalised its policies for investments by NRIs. The seminar will also focus on the investment prospects, opportunities, limitations, policies, procedures, rules, regulations and clarifications on matters pertaining to RBI, FERA and Income-Tax for the NRIs.

Non-Resident Indians in the Middle East who are willing to attend the seminar, for further details, may contact the NRI Investors Group Bahrain, Post Box: 20421, Bahrain (Tel: 532272 - Tlx: 9625 BN); and those from Kuwait should contact anyone of the following of the NRI Investors Forum C/o Indian Embassy, Kuwait. C.S.S. Khanpuri Tel. 2432324, P.K. Mankad, Tel. 2426218, 2426147, K. A. Valsan Tel. 3260466 ext 2368.

Indonesian trade team for Kuwait

AN Indonesian plywood selling mission will visit Kuwait from March 20 to 22. The mission consists of prominent plywood exporters and headed by Adi Sunarto, director of Center for the Promotion of Industrial Products-National Agency for export development-Ministry of Trade of Indonesia.

The visit is coordinated by the Kuwait's Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

I have cash and cash is king, says UK publishing tycoon

Maxwell stalks US acquisitions

LONDON, March 4, (UPI): Robert Maxwell, the publishing tycoon now on a shopping trip for US and other acquisitions, relishes the limelight.

And with a takeover war chest that he said amounts to more than \$1 billion cash, the colourful Czech-born businessman is commanding a lot of attention.

Last month, for example, the stock price of McGraw Hill Inc. shot up amid rumours that Maxwell was stalking the media giant.

The portly self-declared socialist has announced bids for a stable of Australian newspapers, the French financial newspaper Les Echos and is setting up a "European daily" modelled on USA Today.

"I have cash and cash is king," he likes to say, especially since the fall of the stock market last October.

Last year Maxwell Communications Corp., of which he is the majority shareholder, spent \$1 billion making smaller US acquisitions after Maxwell took unsuccessful steps at buying Harcourt Brace Jovanovich Inc., Bell and Howell Co. and the New York Post.

Revenue

Maxwell recently told reporters: "Yes, we are prepared to make a hostile acquisition in the US at any minute." His aim, he said, is to make his empire one of

the top 10 communications companies in the world.

Maxwell's MCC is primarily a printing concern with annual revenue of nearly \$2 billion. In addition, Maxwell privately holds the Mirror Group newspapers with revenues of \$500 million.

Analyst Tony Willis of Chase Manhattan Securities said that to achieve his growth goals, Maxwell needs to make two major international acquisitions.

He praised Maxwell's "supremely good" deals in buying the Mirror Group and the British Printing Co. which later became MCC.

"He picked them up when nobody wanted them and made them very profitable," Willis said.

A television commercial for a new authorised biography of Maxwell, a World War II military hero, hailed him as "the man who couldn't say 'No' to a challenge." And it seems almost true.

A controversial, almost larger-than-life character, Maxwell frequently jets off for meetings with world leaders — he is credited with speaking nine languages — and has inspired such nicknames as "the bouncing Czech" and "Capt Bob."

"He's a tycoon in the most extreme sense of the word," Magnus Linklater, a respected

newspaper editor who worked for Maxwell, said in an interview.

"He runs an organisation with complete autocracy. It is run from the top, by Maxwell himself, and this can be exciting, alarming, upsetting, infuriating, but never dull."

Maxwell is not an ordinary tycoon.

A staunch backer of the left-wing Labour Party and elected a Labour Member of Parliament from 1964-70, his newspapers regularly attack the "populist capitalism" policies of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Born in 1923 into a peasant family, Maxwell built his current fortune as Britain's 8th wealthiest person, only after fighting back from a 1969 financial scandal, in which government investigators said Maxwell could not "be relied upon to exercise proper stewardship of a publicly quoted company." Money magazine estimates Maxwell's wealth at \$1.2 billion.

Assertion

Maxwell rejected that assertion and the government never took action against him.

This winter, Maxwell battled in the style of old-time newspaper barons to publish an autobiography before two other biographies — both more critical — appeared.

The publication of "Maxwell," the authorised biography,

was moved up from Maxwell's 65th birthday on June 10 to March 7. Sensationalism in Maxwell's newspapers began on Feb 21.

The Sunday Mirror headlined its front page: "The making of a legend."

"I hope readers the world over will enjoy the book about me which is totally based on authentic sources," Maxwell said.

But authors Peter Thompson and Anthony Delano struck first. They got into bookstores on Feb 25 with "Maxwell, a portrait of power," which they called the definitive unauthorised biography.

"Maxwell only wants one version of his life to be known," said Delano, former managing editor of the Daily Mirror. "Our version is a good deal more interesting."

Compelling

Pictures of Maxwell have appeared frequently in his newspapers and critics call him a publicity hound. But the story of his life is compelling.

Despite his heroics on the military, financial and philanthropic battlefields, associates said they doubt Maxwell will ever be considered an "insider" by the British financial establishment.

"Financial institutions might still regard him with some suspicion," Linklater said.

'Outlook for '88 cautiously optimistic'

American bank profits in '87 lowest since depression

WASHINGTON, March 4, (AP): American banks recorded their least profitable year since the Great Depression of 1930s last year, but a top federal regulator says he sees better days ahead.

The nation's federally insured commercial banks earned \$3.7 billion last year on assets of 3 trillion, down from \$17.5 billion earnings in 1986, said L. William Seidman, chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.

That amounted to a return on assets of only 0.13 per cent last year and was the lowest level since the FDIC, which insures deposits of up to \$100,000, was established in 1934.

Change

The year-to-year drop in earnings was due entirely to large banks adding to reserves to cover expected losses on loans to Third World countries, Seidman said yesterday. Nine of the 10 largest banks and 17 of the 25 largest reported a loss for 1987.

"Absent the extraordinary reserving for (developing country) loans ... net income would have been roughly equal to

1986's level," Seidman said in the FDIC's bank profile for the fourth quarter of 1987.

Seidman said he believed there was a good chance that banks could avoid further large additions to reserves for Third World loans and said, "the outlook for 1988 is cautiously optimistic."

"Barring any new shocks, loan loss provisioning should be lower than usual this year, and profitability at money centre and regional banks will be much improved," Seidman said, predicting that bank profits this year could return to about the 1986 level.

He also said office occupancy rates and other signs appear to indicate that the economy of the US southwest, which accounted for more than half of last year's bank failures, may be rebounding. But he cautioned that much of the region's health depends on oil prices remaining stable or rising.

The oil-producing states of Texas, Louisiana and Oklahoma accounted for 95 of last year's 184 bank failures, the most recorded since 1933. Twenty-

eight banks have failed in the first two months of this year, 16 of them in the three oil states.

The number of federally insured commercial banks, which is shrinking because of failures and mergers, dwindled from a peak of about 14,500 in 1985 to about 13,700 last year, the lowest number since 1971.

Positive

The results for all of 1987 masked a more positive fourth quarter. Despite loan loss provisions of \$7.7 billion for the quarter, banks posted \$3.2 billion profits, 25 per cent higher than the last quarter of 1986.

Seidman said banks were especially strengthened in the fourth quarter by a flood of new deposits as investors after the Oct 19 stock market crash pulled their money out of stocks and put it into insured bank accounts.

The crash also triggered a surge in loan demand from stock brokers and other financial service firms, the FDIC chairman said. And, because the Federal Reserve pumped money into the economy in response to the crash, banks are enjoying lower interest rates.

Debtor countries spurn export credits

WASHINGTON, March 4, (AP): Debtor countries are spurning subsidised loans despite more offers by industrial countries to push the sales of their goods, according to an International Monetary Fund report.

The US government's Export-Import Bank, which handles the subsidised lending for the United States, says France has been the biggest source of such credits in recent years. The United States is second, followed by Japan, Britain and West Germany.

"For some (debtor) countries, cutbacks may have reflected a desire to limit their increase of external indebtedness," the report said. Total debt of Third World countries is expected to reach \$1.245 trillion by the end of this year.

The report suggested that other borrowers have been so short of cash that they do not have the resources to support new projects.

Credit

It said one government's credit agency is debating a substantial cut in staff, and another is cancelling some of its weekly meetings because there were no

applications to consider.

"One of the largest agencies reported that in 1986 it had approved only 13 applications for credit terms over five years, compared with over 100 a year being approved in times of strong demand," the report said.

Subsidised export credits are often given for big items such as the sale of jet aircraft and, until recent years, nuclear power plants.

The subsidy takes the form of loans from the government agency at low interest rates, or the agency may guarantee bank loans, or write insurance against failure to repay, or both. These methods reduce the cost of financing a deal.

Losses

Many of these agencies have suffered heavy losses because they borrowed at high interest rates and lent at much lower ones. Other losses came because of repudiation of debts by the Communist governments of China and Cuba, and the financial troubles of debtor countries such as Mexico.

Taxpayers in the industrial countries eventually pay the bill.

In February John A. Bohn Jr., president of the US Ex-Im Bank, told Congress it had lost \$471 million in the year that ended last Sept 30. He calculated that over 54 years, the bank has supported \$193 billion worth of US exports at a cost of 2 to 3 billion.

The fund's report says that not only are new government export credits decreasing, but there has been an even sharper decline in new applications, indicating further declines in the future. It also finds a tendency to use the credits more for sales of goods to other developed areas, rather than to financially troubled Third World countries.

Latest figures from the US Export-Import Bank include loans for more than five years by the five biggest lenders between 1981 to 1985. They show a decline in the amount of exports financed from \$28.1 billion to 6 billion.

The total for France dropped from 9.6 billion in 1981 to 2.1 billion in 1985; for the United States from 9.4 to 4.4; Japan from 4.4 to 1.2; West Germany from 3.5 to .6; and Britain from 1.3 to .7.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, March 4, (Reuters): The market ended firmer with investors concentrating on leading industrial stocks. By close of trade the All Ordinaries index was 5.1 points up at 1,298.5.

TOKYO: Share prices closed slightly higher in strong activity due to aggressive trade of large capitalisation issues. The Nikkei index firmed 19.13 points or 0.07 per cent to 25,615.65.

HONG KONG: Light bargain hunting in the afternoon pushed share prices to close around the day's highs. The Hang Seng index rose 3.90 points to finish the day at 2,472.38.

SINGAPORE: The market closed on a mixed note after a firm opening on lack of follow-through buying support and bouts of profit-taking in fairly active trade. The Straits Times industrial index, calculated by the Overseas Union Bank, rose 6.47 points to 918.84.

BOMBAY: Market closed for a Hindu religious festival. Trading resumes on Monday.

FRANKFURT: Leading shares closed mostly below yesterday's finish after a quiet pre-weekend session. The Commerzbank index, calculated at mid-session, fell to 1,388.7 from 1,397.6.

NEW YORK: Stocks were heading lower following a brief rally attempt by the blue chips. The Dow fell 21 to 2,042.

Bills would end tax benefits for overseas Americans

WASHINGTON, March 4, (AP): Bills to end the \$70,000 income tax exemption for Americans abroad were introduced on Wednesday in both Houses of Congress.

Representative Joe Kolter said his bill would save the US Treasury \$1.2 billion the first year and 6.7 billion over the next four years.

A similar bill was introduced by Senator William Proxmire, chairman of the Banking Committee.

Advocates of the exclusion argue that Americans working abroad are also subject to local taxes, that other major trading countries exempt their citizens abroad entirely from taxes at home, and that American exports have been increasing.

Foreign fund withdrawals could bring recession in US, says Bergsten

WASHINGTON, March 4, (AP): People in other countries have invested \$1.5 trillion in the United States and withdrawals could bring a recession, a former top treasury official says.

C. Fred Bergsten, who now heads the Institute for International Economics, a study group funded largely by the West German Marshall Fund, issued the warning yesterday.

Bergsten said the investment by other countries in the United States is in private hands. "Some of it's in the form of plant and equipment — that's not going to come out rapidly," he told the House Budget Committee. "But close to a trillion of it is liquid, and about half of a trillion has come in just the last five years to finance our massive trade deficits."

Rate

"On future occasions, if foreigners withdrew money, the effect of interest rates, our economy, the exchange rate, could be much more dramatic."

It has happened before, he said. "The last time the dollar fell sharply — I happen to remember painfully because I was in the treasury at the time — was in the late 1970s," he added.

He was then assistant secretary of the Treasury for International Affairs. He recalled that the United States had to borrow about twice the amount of its trade deficit because foreigners were withdrawing money at the same time.

"If we got anything like that magnitude now, we'd have to find a way to borrow \$300 billion from foreign officials or somewhere to keep our books in balance," he said. "That could only be done at prices that would bring the whole economy to a shuddering halt."

He said the most enduring legacy of the Reagan administration would be the conversion of the United States from the world's biggest creditor country to the biggest debtor. Current foreign borrowing by the US government is about \$150 billion a year.

Debt

"At the end of 1987, our net international debt stood at about \$400 billion, more than the external red ink of the next three largest debtors — Canada, Brazil, and Mexico — combined," he said.

Under the most optimistic adjustment scenario, that number will rise to \$750 billion before it could possibly level off, and a more likely outcome is much closer to \$1 trillion.

Bergsten said the United States needs to shift its annual international trade balance by about \$200 billion more than the current deficit, because the additional cost of interest on the foreign debt will be close to \$50 billion by the early 1990s. It would be reasonable to try to reach this target in four or five years, he said.

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Inside story of an inhumane siege

By Victoria Brittain

IN THE early days of the siege of the Palestinian camp, Bourj al Barajneh, in Beirut last year Dr Pauline Cutting wrote in her diary, "My world has become very small." She had then been out of the hospital building only 3 or 4 times in two months, but her world was to become smaller still over the next months as the siege tightened and the hospital itself crumbled around her as it suffered shelling from the Amal attackers.

Dr Cutting, who was later awarded an OBE for her medical work in Beirut, worked day and night operating on Palestinians wounded by the relentless bombardment of Bourj al Barajneh, in a cramped, makeshift theatre, without electricity, running water and even food for much of the time.

She tells the story of the extraordinary heroism, especially of the Palestinian doctors and nurses, and the women of Bourj al Barajneh, vividly and in a simple diary style. Her own daily battles were against freezing wet feet, exhaustion, lack of privacy, hunger and the terror of losing all her teeth for lack of vitamin C. Her compensations were the deep friendships and generosity of the Palestinian families who took her and the handful of foreign medical workers into their homes.

She even manages to make her book funny and touching with stories of the ingenuity of the other doctors and nurses who could manufacture a treat out of half a candle or a tin of sardines, and entertain each other and the patients with chess marathons, religious dialogues or dreams of future meals or holidays.

Dr Cutting has clearly not meant to write a political book, but her descriptions of the everyday life of the besieged doctors in the Beirut camp speak for themselves.

The darkest side of this book is her description of the agonising six weeks it took for the Syrian Army, already in control of the rest of Beirut, to decide to lift the siege of the starving Palestinians in the camp.

Her own brave initiative to publicise the inhabitants' appalling conditions, using her name and thereby risking an Amal kidnapping attempt, had by then brought world-wide condemnation of the siege, though no successful international action — as has been the case in every first attempt to destroy the Palestinian people since 1948.

The gruesome sadism of the Amal fighters towards the Palestinian women finally allowed out to buy food (but not medicines or fuel) is one unforgettable part of this book.

Nabih Berri declared that the siege of Bourj al Barajneh was lifted, but as each day passed we became more bitter as the women allowed out to get food continued to be intimidated, abused, robbed, shot at and killed — in "Death Passage".

There is a sharp contrast in her description of the brave Hezbollah attempts to break the siege by running mill powder through the Amal lines.

"The world may choose to forget those people and their plight, but I for one will never forget..." is how Dr Cutting ends her modest book.

Rediscovering Beatrix Potter

By Stephanie Nettell

IN 1893 a 27-year-old English spinster wrote a letter to a small boy who was ill in bed. He was one of the children of the young governess who had been her companion at 17, and she often sent them little letters covered in drawings.

"Dear Noel," it began, "I don't know what to write to you, so I shall tell you a story about four little rabbits whose names were Flopsy, Mopsy, Cottontail and Peter. They lived with their mother in a sand bank under the root of a big fir tree."

The children cherished their letters, and eight years later, when she asked if she could copy Noel's to make a little book, it came back to her quite safe. Thus "The Tale of Peter Rabbit" was born.

Beatrix Potter's annual sales today are seven million worldwide, but that first Peter Rabbit was rejected by so many publishers that she was forced to draw out her own Post Office savings to have it printed privately. Thrilled with its appearance and relative success — it sold more than 400 — she dared send it back to the only publisher that had shown a polite interest, Frederick Warne & Company, which agreed to publish it if she coloured the black and white illustrations. Its print-run of 8000 sold out before publication, and so began one of the longest and closest relationships in the history of publishing.

That was 1902. From then until World War I Beatrix Potter and Warne produced roughly two books a year and when, at the end of the war, the family firm faced bankruptcy — one of the brothers was in prison for forgery on a grand scale — it was to her they turned for a profitable new book.

By the time she died in 1943

The artistry of the early 20th century writer Beatrix Potter, so evocative of English childhood in times past and present, has over the years become a worldwide institution. Her first book, "The Tale of Peter Rabbit", has been reprinted 240 times, and sales of all her titles now total seven million a year in 15 languages. From small beginnings — lack of interest meant she had to pay to have "Peter Rabbit" published privately — has grown a vast merchandising industry. And now there is a new collected edition, complete with original artwork "like wiping off the dust of centuries and finding some bright and sparkling treasure underneath..."

her 23 stories of the Flopsy Bunnies and Squirrel Nutkin, Mrs Tiggy-Winkle the hedgehog and Mr Jeremy Fisher the frog. Tom Kitten and Jemima Puddle-Duck, the tailoring mice of Gloucester and all the other characters so loved by generations of children, were selling 21000 copies a year.

Potter is now even more popular in the United States than in Britain, and Japan is the biggest of her foreign language markets. Warne publishes editions in French, Welsh, Spanish and even Latin; worldwide she has been translated into 15 languages, and the latest rights enquiries are from Indonesia and Bulgaria.

Enormous There is an enormous merchandising industry, from diaries to cookery, gardening, knitting and music books, toy theatres, China, jigsaws, tea cosies, money boxes — anything on which you could conceivably stick a picture of Peter Rabbit.

This very success caused an insidious deterioration in the reproduction of her artwork. Each book has been reprinted over 100 times and Peter Rabbit has endured more than 240 reprints. Background scenes faded to vanishing

point, detailed brushwork became blurred, and colours were flat or crudely retouched. So about two years ago Warne tackled the expensive and painstaking task of re-origination of the graphics.

It traced Potter's own watercolours and, using the latest in photographic printing techniques and endlessly patient proofing, in 1987 it published the entire set of books. Now Beatrix Potter's artistry can be fully appreciated; it is like wiping off the dust of centuries and finding some bright and sparkling treasure underneath. Today's children are being given a treat their parents and grandparents and grand-parents quite missed out on.

But there was more to Beatrix Potter than just these endearing books. She was born in 1866 in Kensington, London, to a well-to-do barrister and his wife. Both family fortunes had come from the Lancashire cotton trade, in north-west England, a fact later overlooked when Potter wanted to marry her editor, Norman Warne, disapproved of by her parents for being "in trade".

A rather lonely child, often ill and nervously depressed, her main companion was her

brother Bertram, six years younger but sharpening a pleasure in animals and drawing that soon developed into a passionate and scholarly devotion.

Accurate

At the age of nine an accurate and engaging artist, by her teens she showed outstanding ability... the irresistible desire to copy any beautiful object which strikes the eye, why cannot one be content to look at it? I cannot rest, I must draw, however poor, her natural history studies imbued not only with affection but also scientific powers of observation. Her museum work, often microscope studies of every kind of flora, fauna, fungi, and fossils, are still breathtaking to this day. She and Bertram always had a menagerie of cosseted pets — including two rabbits, Benjamin Bunny and Peter Piper — which even went on family holidays to the Lake District of the English north-west where the foundations for her later love were laid.

Her parents were unusually demanding — even for the period — of their unmarried daughter. Their refusal to countenance a public engagement to Norman Warne, though she was 39, turned to tragedy when he died only a few weeks later of pernicious anaemia. Potter had earlier bought a working farm, Hill Top in the Lake District, and it was there she increasingly returned for solace.

By 1909 she had bought a lot more land, including Castle Farm, and become a recognised breeder of Herdwick sheep. When in 1913 she married local solicitor William Heelis she had once again to wear down her parents' stubbornly selfish opposition. Potter was by now 47 but this late happiness warmed and supported her for the last 30 years of her life.



Clockwise: the famous Peter Rabbit letter that started Beatrix Potter on her illustrious career (1893); Beatrix Potter's Humca Munca from "The Tale of Two Bad Mice," owned by the National Trust (1904); The interior of Hill Top in the Lake District, where many of the famous Beatrix Potter characters were created; Beatrix Potter at the Hill Top (1905).

Czechs rehabilitate Kafka

After years of suppression, the writings of Franz Kafka are gaining official recognition in his native land, Czechoslovakia.

By Michael Wise

PRAGUE, (Reuters): The writings of Franz Kafka are regaining recognition in Czechoslovakia 20 years after being denounced as a spur to the Prague spring.

A collection of the final letters Prague-born Kafka wrote before dying, of tuberculosis in 1924, will be published by the Czechoslovak state publishing house Odeon later this year, along with a new edition of his cryptic novel "The Castle".

These were among the many works unpublished in his lifetime and which he requested should be destroyed.

News of the publications followed an article on Kafka in the Czech cultural weekly Tvorba last month urging reappraisal of works of Czech or world literature which "have disappeared beyond the horizon".

Odeon Editor Josef Ceramak, in charge of the Kafka publications, said the country had long taken the wrong approach to one of Prague's most famous sons.

Kafka's writings — often portraying isolated individuals trapped in a senseless world — have been suppressed twice since World War Two in Prague, where he was born in 1883. The Nazis banned his works during the wartime occupation of the country.

Czechoslovakia's communist ideologists poured scorn on him

when they came to power in 1948, branding him a decadent nihilist. He was rehabilitated briefly in the early 1960s, but his work was again suppressed following the Soviet crushing of the 1968 Prague spring reform movement. None of his work is currently in print.

"History is such that mistakes are made," Ceramak said in an interview. "We should do away with the legends and try to understand this writer, and we will find that he does concern us as readers and as citizens of this town."

In mid-December a Prague theatre staged a play based on Kafka's anxiety-ridden life. Shortly after the New Year the authorities allowed an Argentine director to begin shooting a film in the Czech capital about the author.

Even more surprisingly, the Czechoslovak Ambassador to West Germany recently paid a visit to a literary research centre preparing an analytical edition of Kafka's collected works, written in German, for the Frankfurt-based publishers S. Fischer.

Image "They are trying to change the image that for them Kafka was a 'Bogeyman'," West German Kafka scholar Juergen Born said. "Things are opening up... he (the envoy) made a point of it."

Kafka's writings were widely published in Czechoslovakia after a 1963 conference in Libice

near Prague when scholars drew parallels between the bureaucratic nightmares he portrayed and the terror of the Stalin era.

But the relevance of Kafka to contemporary society raised the sticky problem at the conference of whether alienation from society could exist under socialism as well as capitalism.

"It was the first moment in the cultural sphere when the official line of the party was criticised from below," said Ivan Klima, author of two plays based on Kafka's life and work.

Since 1968, Orthodox Communists have damned the conference and the cultural thaw that followed as the trigger for moves towards a counter revolution.

"Kafka was too honest. They (the authorities) are afraid of everybody who is a true and honest man," added Klima. A collection of Kafka's short stories appeared in 1983 on the centenary of his birth, but only after great hesitation did the ministry of culture permit his admirers to organise a small commemorative programme.

"We have not sufficiently used all the opportunities we had with Kafka," editor Ceramak said. "The discussion on this topic was not open or extensive enough... I would say the room for our editorial policy is getting bigger."

Czechoslovak human rights



Kafka: changing image

activists said it would be erroneous to see Kafka's latest reemergence as a sign that the new Communist Party chief Milos Jakes planned to ease tight controls on the country's cultural diet.

"They and several Kafka experts said works like 'The castle' or 'The trial' had lost the subversive allegorical potency they held for Czechoslovak society before the thwarted 1968 reforms.

More dangerous in the eyes of the authorities today were some 65 writers living in Czechoslovakia who remain proscribed as enemies of socialism, said Klima, whose own writings cannot be published.

"Kafka has been neutralised for our times," commented a prominent academic subjected to secret police interrogation for his interest in Kafka after 1968.

State publishers could now politically afford to associate themselves with Kafka as great literature, arguing it should not be subject to overinterpretation, the academic said.

"In the 1950s, Kafka may have helped us to understand the system better," said a literary critic active in the charter 77 human rights movement.

"Now Kafka is no longer necessary as an interpreter. His writings can be understood as a description of a general human condition but not as an evaluation of totalitarianism."

Hope for the global population explosion

GAINING PEOPLE, LOSING GROUND. By Werner Fornos Science Press, Washington, D.C.

Eighty-seven million people were added to the world's population last year — the largest per annum increase in recorded history and virtually all of it in the poorest countries of the world.

In his timely new book, *Gaining People, Losing Ground*, Werner Fornos, president of The Population Institute, warns that, unless there is a global sense of urgency to substantially reduce human reproduction, the cataclysmic consequences will not be limited to the Third World.

Consider these disastrous effects of rapid population growth:

More than 800 million new jobs must be generated in the next 13 years just to accommodate people already born. Timberlands equal in size to 40 Californias will vanish by the end of the century, much of loss due to the need for fuelwood and grazing land in developing countries.

A total of 21 developing world cities will have 10 million or more people by the year 2000, compared with only three such cities in 1975. There will also be 46 developing world cities with five million or more people by the end of the century, leading to incredible strains on already overburdened schools, hospitals, sewage and water systems, and all public services.

Half of the 15 million infants who die each year in the Third World are offspring of mothers who spaced their pregnancies too closely, or were high pregnancy risks because of their age.



The faces of Chinese children: China is one of the countries that has dramatically lowered its fertility rates with effective family planning programmes.

As many as one-fourth of the more than 500,000 developing world women who die annually from pregnancy and childbirth complications did not want to become pregnant but lacked the knowledge, access or means to obtain a method of family planning.

Pessimistic

Depressing as these facts may be, *Gaining People, Losing Ground* is far from being a pessimistic tome. Once the reader's mind is unbogged from the nightmarish statistical account of disruption, destruction and devastation caused or exacerbated by rapid population growth, it becomes clear that Fornos is not this season's prophet of gloom and doom. On the contrary, the author believes the global stark sweepstakes can be reversed.

He is supported in this contention by more than two decades of impressive evidence accumulated from such politically and culturally diverse countries as China, Mexico, Indonesia, Colombia, Thailand, Panama, Singapore, Costa Rica, Hong Kong, Cuba and South Korea, which have lowered their fertility rates dramatically. The common denominator is that each had the full support and cooperation of its national government in developing and carrying out effective family planning programmes.

Indeed, few developing countries still believe that population promotes prosperity, thanks largely to strong support for international population programmes over the years from the industrialised world and especially the United States.

Fornos minces no words in holding the Reagan Administration, bolstered by opponents of both modern contraception and abortion, largely responsible for stalling the effort to achieve universal availability of family planning. He recounts the irony of the United States, after 20 years of convincing developing nations that rapid population growth erodes development gains, turning around and adopting a policy centred on the proposition that population growth is irrelevant to the development process.

As president of the Population Institute, Fornos is a leading activist in promoting awareness of rapid population growth among world leaders and the general public. Given the current political climate in Washington, he and the Institute have their work cut out. *Gaining People, Losing Ground* probes one of the world's paramount (and least understood) problems and offers more than a ray of hope that it can be solved.

The book is available from The Population Institute, 110 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C., at \$10.95 (hard cover) and \$4.95 (soft cover).

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

RECTAL CANCER, HAEMORRHOIDS HAVE SIMILAR SYMPTOMS

QUESTION: Lately I've discovered blood mixed in with my bowel movements. At first I thought it was just the result of haemorrhoids, but recently I learned of a relative with similar symptoms who is suffering from rectal cancer. How can I determine the cause of my condition?

ANSWER: The symptoms for these two conditions are somewhat similar and can be confused easily. A detailed checkup, involving a digital rectal exam and a proctoscopic examination, can help distinguish simple haemorrhoids from cases of rectal cancer.

Both conditions feature painless bleeding as a part of bowel movements, blood on the surface of passed stools (but not mixed within the stool), a sensation of incomplete passing of stools and an increased need to strain in order to pass stools.

If the basic symptoms are accompanied by weight loss, anorexia and a general feeling of ill health, it can indicate a cancer that already has spread beyond the rectum — a rare occurrence, because this condition usually is located early on. (By contrast,

haemorrhoids rarely affect an individual's overall health.)

Additional testing, including checking stools for hidden blood and air-contrast colon X-rays to reveal cancer cells, can help to distinguish the two conditions. If necessary, a direct, hands-on examination can help a doctor recognise a cancer by its hard texture on the flexible wall of the bowel.

In your case, I would advise a bit of haste in getting to your physician.

QUESTION: I've heard the expression "no pain, no gain" in regard to exercising (particularly jogging), but where is the gain in exhausting yourself and causing damage to your joints?

ANSWER: You're right — there is no upside to causing yourself injury in order to improve your health. However, your question is based on some common misconceptions regarding exercise.

First of all, throw that "no pain, no gain" concept out the window where it probably will hit one of the masochists who believes in it on the head — a sensation that person will

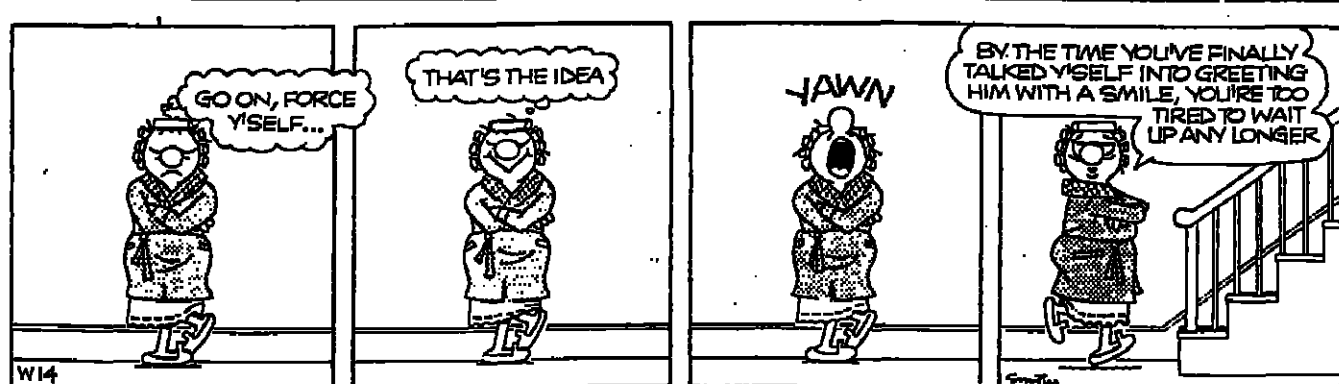
no doubt enjoy. It's simply not necessary to exercise to and beyond the point of pain to benefit yourself. The best approach is to condition your muscles slowly to deal with higher levels of performance. A little soreness in the days after stretching unused muscles is normal, but pain during exercise is a no-no and a cue to stop or avoid putting stress on the tender area.

Nor are the body's joints automatically subject to damage during exertion. A variety of low-impact exercise, including swimming, light weight lifting and simple aerobics, will benefit your health without risking your body — while mixing a variety of options will keep your exercise programme from growing stale and boring.

A little exercise can go a long way too — as little as three weekly workouts lasting 20 to 40 minutes each can extend life and help fight cardiovascular and respiratory diseases. Ask your doctor to help you design an exercise programme that will put your fears to rest and your body to work!

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ANDY CAPP



By Smith

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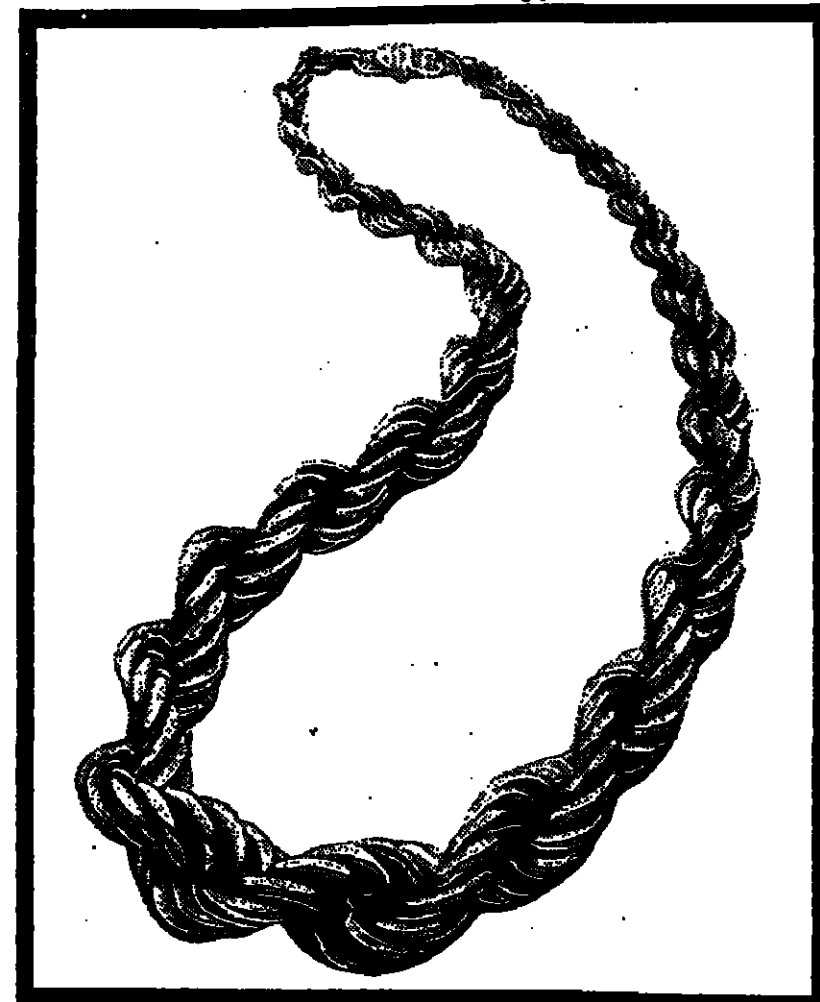
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پنجاب کے ایک گاؤں میں ہونے والے خونریز واقعات کے بعد ہلاک ہونے والے ۳۲ افراد کی تعداد ۲۴ زخمی ہو گئے۔

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عرب ٹائمز

بہشت ۵۰ مارچ ۱۹۸۸ء رجب ۱۴۰۸ء چیف ایڈیٹر احمد جبار اللہ

میرے حکمران مسلم لیگ میں شامل ہونے کا کوئی امکان نہیں، فضل حق

جارج شلٹن نے اسرائیلی وزیر اعظم کو امن کا تحریری منصوبہ پیش کر دیا

امریکی وزیر خارجہ جارج شلٹن نے اسرائیلی وزیر اعظم کو امن کا تحریری منصوبہ پیش کر دیا۔

امریکی وزیر خارجہ جارج شلٹن نے اسرائیلی وزیر اعظم کو امن کا تحریری منصوبہ پیش کر دیا۔



ایک اسرائیلی خاندان کے افراد کی تصویر، جنہوں نے اسرائیلی فوجیوں کے حملے میں ہلاکت کا شکار ہوا۔

ایران اور حکومت کے درمیان طویل مدت کے بعد پہلا اجلاس

ایران اور حکومت کے درمیان طویل مدت کے بعد پہلا اجلاس، اجلاس میں وزیر اعظم کی صدارت میں وزارت خارجہ کے وزرائے امور نے شرکت کی۔

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بنگلہ دیش میں صدر ارشد کی پارٹی نے انتخابات میں اکثریت حاصل کر لی

بنگلہ دیش میں صدر ارشد کی پارٹی نے انتخابات میں اکثریت حاصل کر لی۔

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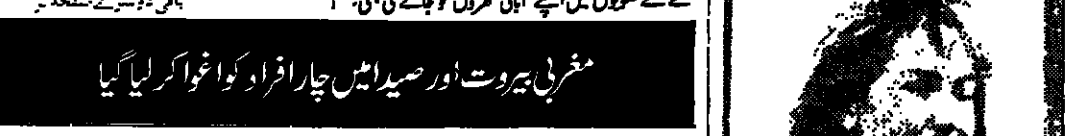


ایک اسرائیلی خاندان کے افراد کی تصویر، جنہوں نے اسرائیلی فوجیوں کے حملے میں ہلاکت کا شکار ہوا۔

عراق اور ایران کے ایک دوسرے کے دارالحکومتوں پر بمباری حملے جاری رکھے

عراق اور ایران کے ایک دوسرے کے دارالحکومتوں پر بمباری حملے جاری رکھے۔

عراق اور ایران کے ایک دوسرے کے دارالحکومتوں پر بمباری حملے جاری رکھے۔



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تامل باغیوں نے ایک گاؤں میں گھس کر پندرہ افراد کو موت کے گھاٹ اتار دیا

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پاکستان کی کرکٹ ٹیم ویسٹ انڈیز کے دورے پر چھ ماہ پہنچ گئی

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Wales battle Ireland for triple crown honours

DUBLIN, March 4, (Reuters): Wales meet Ireland in the five Nations Rugby Union Championship tomorrow seeking their first triple crown since 1979. But they face a tough task if Olympic hopeful Brendan Mullin can turn on the pace.

In Mullin, who holds the Irish 110 metres hurdles record of 14.41 seconds and has set his sights on qualifying for the Olympic Games in Seoul, and fellow centre Michael Kiernan, the Irish have a pair to challenge in style the sparkling, in-form Welsh backs.

If both sides opt for all-out attack a fascinating battle is in prospect between the Irish pair and the Welsh back line led by flyhalf Jonathan Davies, who inspired Wales to wins in their two previous championship matches against Scotland and England.

Drubbing
Irish coach Jimmy Davidson is confident his team can recover from the 25-6 drubbing by the French two weeks ago after beating Scotland 22-18 in their one previous championship match.

"I think this one must go our way. The buzz is coming back into our side," Davidson said. "The French result was a learning process for them. You have to be defeated soundly in order to take in the lessons," he said after a short training session of just 45 minutes yesterday.

Ireland lost their last two home matches against Wales and Scotland. They have immense respect for Wales, praising their back row and acknowledging the genius of Davies.

The Welsh were dealt a last-minute blow when loose head prop Staff Jones had to pull out yesterday with a pulled hamstring. He is replaced by Anthony Buchanan, who wins his fifth international cap.

Ireland have brought in Dennis McBride, a flanker, in place of the injured Willie Sexton.

After winning the Grand Slam last season and reaching the final of the inaugural World Cup, France were overwhelming championship favourites this year.

But Wales, with five tries in two matches, have returned to the glory days of the 1970s and start the match as overwhelming favourites, although, knowing they have to win, "Wales are warm favourites before they go to have their dreams shattered."

In the other match tomorrow Chris Oti, the exciting young Cambridge winger, will find out first hand if England's pledge to play open rugby union against Scotland in the Calcutta Cup match is going to be fulfilled.

Oti, a player of rare attacking potential, has been selected on the left wing for England in their Five Nations Championship fourth-round match.

Oti's selection being inevitable after the 11-3 defeat by Wales a month ago and Rory Underwood, who has shown only glimpses of his club form at international level, has been switched to the right wing to accommodate him.

Reinstated
"We have to give the ball to Chris Oti quickly and in space," scrumhalf Nigel Melville, reinstated as England captain, said. "If he is on a one-to-one with time to work he will score."

Melville's sentiments are admirable but long-suffering English supporters could be forgiven some scepticism.

David Duckham, one of the world's greatest wingers, was shamefully neglected during the late 1960s and early 1970s and Underwood has seldom received the ball with any room to move.

The recall of Rob Andrew at flyhalf does not encourage any optimism that England will spin the ball quickly.

BAYERN CONCEDE TWO LATE GOALS

Sanchez keeps Real's Cup hopes alive

LONDON, March 4, (Reuters): Real Madrid once again had the extraordinary goalkeeping instincts and good fortune of Mexican striker Hugo Sanchez to thank for preserving their European Cup hopes on Wednesday night.

Sanchez, as he had in the second round first leg match at home to holders Porto in Valencia, scored a crucial late goal against Bayern Munich to swing the outstanding quarterfinal tie Real's way.

Delight
The Spanish champions, desperately seeking a seventh triumph in the premier tournament of European club soccer, finished the match in a dance of delight after a 3-2 defeat which leaves them requiring only a 1-0 win in Madrid to reach the last four.

In the three other Champions' Cup ties, Portugal's Benfica — like Real, trying to revive a golden past — beat Belgian champions Anderlecht 2-0, 1986 winners Steaua Bucharest overcame Glasgow Rangers by the same score and PSV Eindhoven, the Dutch champions, forced a 1-1 draw in France against Bordeaux.

Bayern, backed by a capacity 70,000 crowd in Munich's Olympic stadium, had taken advantage of the Spanish champions' mistrust of the icy conditions and



Wolfgang Rolff (left) grimaces as he tries to put the ball past goalkeeper Zubizarreta of Barcelona. (Reuters wirephoto)

swirling snow to storm into a commanding 3-0 lead in their first leg match.

Hans Pflugner, Norbert Eder and Roland Wohlfarth each scored during a 10-minute spell either side of the interval as Real's defence hesitated and collapsed.

Bayern, beaten by Portugal's Porto in last year's final after they had eliminated Real Madrid following a stormy semifinal marred

by crowd trouble in Spain, appeared to be cruising towards victory.

But then, with only three minutes remaining, Eder misplaced a pass and Emilio Butragueno pounced to score with the speed and economy that has led him to be dubbed 'The Jackal' by the Spanish club's fans.

Madrid were revitalised and in the final minute Sanchez scored their second priceless away goal.



Butragueno (right) tries to stop Bayern captain Klaus Augenthaler. (Reuters wirephoto)

His free kick from a narrow angle on the left slipped beneath the body of the diving Jean-Marie Pfaff and inside the far post.

Though coach Jupp Heynckes was defiant in defeat, Bayern will know they face an enormous task in surviving in Madrid where home fans will be admitted to a

European tie for the first time this season at the second leg.

As punishment for the misbehaviour of their fans at last year's semifinal second leg against Bayern, Real were forced to play Napoli behind closed doors and Porto in Valencia earlier this season in the first and second

rounds. With the backing of a capacity 100,000 crowd at the Santiago Bernabeu, Real will be favoured to reach the last four.

There, they are likely to be joined by both Steaua, for whom Victor Piturca and Stefan Iovan scored in a comfortable win over Rangers, and Benfica, whose marksmen against Anderlecht were the Swedish international Mats Magnusson and Chiquinho.

Scraped
In the Cup Winners' Cup, Italian Second Division club Atlanta had a fine 2-0 win over Sporting Lisbon and Belgium's Mechelen scraped a 1-0 victory against the Dynamo Minsk of the Soviet Union.

Barcelona's two UEFA Cup challengers both impressed — Barcelona drawing 0-0 away to Bayer Leverkusen in West Germany and Espanol winning 2-0 against Vitkovice of Spain. In the remaining ties, Club Brugge of Belgium drew 2-2 in Athens with Panathinaikos and Werder Bremen of West Germany had a good 1-0 win in Italy over Verona.

Maradona fails to save Napoli

ROME, March 4, (Reuters): Holders Napoli crashed out of the Italian Soccer Cup on Wednesday despite a gallant two-goal effort by captain Diego Maradona to save his team from a shock home defeat.

A 79th minute goal by Austrian Anton Polster gave lowly Torino a 3-2 win over Maradona's men — enough to seal a 4-3 aggregate victory and a place in the semifinals.

Torino's Tullio Gritti opened the scoring in the 27th minute on a chilly night at the San Paolo stadium, setting the stage for a close match which champions Napoli had been expected to win easily.

Argentine World Cup captain Maradona replied nine minutes later with a beautifully-struck free kick with his left foot.

Command
Pulling together a team lacking defender Ciro Ferrara and midfielder Salvatore Bagni, Maradona seemed to have shown Torino who was in command with his second goal, again from a free kick, in the 50th minute.

But Napoli's dreams of a second consecutive Cup and League double triumph were shattered in just five minutes. Antonio Comi found space to score a fine solo goal in the 74th minute to make it 2-2 and Polster turned an embarrassing draw into a humiliating defeat 11 minutes from the end.

In the other quarterfinals, Juventus who have been struggling to find their form this season, had a happier night beating Avellino 1-0, with a first-half goal by Sergio Brio, to go through 2-1 on aggregate.

Internazionale and Sampdoria qualified after expected victories over Empoli and Ascoli.

Chicago beat Philadelphia

NEW YORK, March 4, (AP): Michael Jordan, who scored 36 points, hit a driving layup with 1:13 remaining then added four free throws as the Chicago Bulls beat Philadelphia 97-93 last night, handing the 76ers their 19th consecutive road loss.

Jordan's late spree overcame a 16-point fourth-quarter performance by Philadelphia's Charles Barkley, who led the 76ers with 32 points and 18 rebounds.

Portland 135, Phoenix 112

Clyde Drexler tied his season-high with 42 points while Jerome Kersey added 28 and Kevin Duckworth 25 as the Portland Trail Blazers beat the Phoenix Suns 135-112 to sweep the season series between the two Pacific Division teams.

It was the first time in the Suns' 20-year NBA history that they had lost all six games of a regular-season series. The loss also was Phoenix's fourth straight, 20th in its last 24 games and ninth in its last 12 home games.

Dinghy regatta
THE Kuwait Open Dinghy Regatta will be held under the patronage of the chairman of the Kuwait Olympic Committee, Sheikh Salim Al Ahmad, on March 10-11.

The event being organised by the Kuwait Yachting Committee will be held at the Kuwait Sea Sports Club, Ras Al Ardh, Salina.

For further information call 5713022 or 5710131.

Liverpool face tricky plastic test

LONDON, March 4, (Reuters): English First Division leaders Liverpool face one of the most tricky tests of their current invincibility tomorrow when they travel to meet Queen's Park Rangers on their much-criticised synthetic pitch in west London.

Liverpool, 14 points ahead of second-placed Manchester United after a 27-match unbeaten start to the season, have never enjoyed performing on plastic surfaces and player-manager Kenny Dalglish has frequently expressed his fears in the past.

Artificial
Last season, they suffered heavy League and Cup defeats on Luton's artificial carpet and two seasons ago they lost at QPR in both the League and the English League Cup.

But such has been the awesome form of the Liverpool team this season, few people will expect a high-bouncing and unforgiving pitch to upset their march towards Leeds record 29 game unbeaten start in 1973-74 and a possible repeat of their League and Cup 'double' triumph of 1986.

Manchester United, out of all Cup competitions but intent on retaining their grip on second place, hope to maintain their recently-improved form and welcome back England captain

Bryan Robson at relegation-haunted Norwich.

On a personal basis, Robson is anxious to dispel the feeling that he is injury-jinxed by recording his best appearance tally for a season since joining United in 1981.

He is set to return after a two-match absence with a thigh muscle strain. Provided he steers clear of further injuries, the midfielder should easily surpass the 33 First Division games he managed in the 1982-83 and 83-84 seasons.

Since then his appearance totals have been 32, 21 and 29 — all disappointing returns for such an influential player. This season, he has missed only three of United's 29 League games and their Football Association (FA) Cup fifth round defeat at Arsenal.

United's match at Norwich will also mark the first return to Carrow Road of central defender Steve Bruce, who spent three years there before his transfer to Old Trafford in December.

Third-placed Nottingham Forest have, like Liverpool, who played in Spain in midweek, also been abroad. Without a game last weekend, they went to Tenerife.

Tomorrow they are assured a much colder reception at Sheffield Wednesday who are eager

to recover after three defeats.

Forest need victory to boost their hopes of pipping Manchester United for second place and gaining a possible European place. They are six points adrift at the moment, but have three games in hand.

Loan

Everton manager Colin Harvey was another European traveller. He had talks with Barcelona in the hope of preparing a move for Mark Hughes, who is currently on loan to Bayern Munich.

Harvey needs a striker for a renewed challenge to Merseyside rivals Liverpool next season. Everton face Newcastle at home tomorrow having won their last four League matches without conceding a goal.

Meanwhile it was announced yesterday that policing English and Scottish League soccer last season cost over £3.65 million (£6.4 million) — a rise of 16.6 per cent on the previous year.

English First Division clubs accounted for almost half the money, but Glasgow Celtic topped the individual list.

The growing cost of safety at soccer grounds was shown by figures issued yesterday by the football trust, a body funded by the soccer pools companies. It met £1.28 million (\$2.3 million)

of the bill.

Chelsea, Liverpool, Everton, Manchester United and Arsenal each topped £100,000 (£176,000), with Chelsea highest at £114,000 (\$200,000).

Second Division Millwall had the highest rate per fan — £368 (\$648) for every 1,000 spectators.

Policing costs in Scotland have more than doubled since 1984. Last season they rose to £750,000 (\$1.3 million) with Celtic accounting for £225,000 (\$400,000).

In another development it was announced that English First Division soccer club Charlton may go back to their old home the Valley, once the League's largest pitch.

Results	
Results of British soccer matches played on Wednesday:	
English Division Two	
Manchester C	2 Hull
Scottish Premier	
Dunfermline	0 Celtic
English Division Three	
Brighton	2 Port Vale
Bristol R	1 Notts County
Chesham	3 Gillingham
Northampton	4 Southend
Division Four	
Exeter	1 Hartlepool
Scarborough	1 Torquay
Scottish Division One	
Raith	0 Hamilton

Hanika moves into quarterfinals

WICHITA, Kansas, March 4, (Reuters): Third-seeded Sylvia Hanika of West Germany advanced yesterday to the quarterfinal round of the \$100,000 Kansas women's tennis tournament with a 7-5-6-2 win over Catherine Tanvier of France.

Down 2-5 in the opening set, Hanika, ranked No. 19 in the world, stepped up the pressure to pull out the victory. It was also Hanika's fourth triumph over Tanvier in their last five meetings.

"She was nailing everything and hitting everything 200 miles an hour. Then I put more spin on my serve and put more slice. I put a little more pressure on her and eventually I knew she was going to miss," said Hanika.

When Tanvier started missing, she missed nearly everything. Hanika won 11 of the next 13 games.

Getty suffer first defeat

GETTY suffered their first defeat against SFT in the Kuwait Little League over the weekend. Getty lost control of the game in the first innings by scoring no runs against SFT's three.

Both the teams managed to keep the scoring low for the rest of the game. In the 2nd inning both teams made only 1 run each and also in the 3rd inning with 3 runs each.

In the 4th inning SFT scored 2 runs and 4 runs in the 5th inning, while Getty made 1 run in the 4th inning and couldn't gain the lead with another inning so the bottom of the 5th inning wasn't completed. Final score SFT 13 and Getty 5.

In the final game of the day, UAS also suffered their first defeat against M&M's. In the 1st & 2nd inning M&M held UAS with no runs while bringing 5 players across home plate. In the 3rd inning UAS finally scored

with 2 runs and M&M's 3 runs.

The 4th inning brought a strong drive by UAS with 6 runs to M&M's 2 runs, but not strong enough to take a win. Final score M&M's 10 and UAS 8.

Scores

Ambassadors 9 (Cory Fox (3), Talal Navarro (1), Erik Fox (1), Keith Miyasaka (1), Kee Lee (1), Jihad Sakleh (1), Bee Mullers (1)) Computhink 7 (Firbas Afrima (2), Paul Colburne (2), Scott Fortes (1), Bryan Cox (1), Donci Ha Lee (1)).

Al Juliah 19 (Raid Al Labadi (3), Bibi Ibrahim (3), Gibran Hamdan (2), Haniham Rajab (3), Tarek Hamdan (1), Khalifa Miesaid (1), Mohammad Ahmed (1), Nori Abdel Aziz (2), Patrick Khalis (3) BTC 11 (Clifford (1), Radeepan (2), Billy (2), Jonathan (1), Chucky (2), Ravi (1), Donna (1), Raja (1)).

Magobar 16 (Shunsaku Ito (1), Aziz Al Arfaj (1), Makoto Imai (2), Samer Koubaisi (1), Tarek Abou Amin (1), Yusuf Al Qallaf (2), Fumitaka Midorikawa (1), Masato Watanabe (1), Jun Yoshimura (3), Koichi Hozumi (1), Shadee Koubaisi (1), Matthew Burchfield (1), SFB 4 (Shelman Khajah (1), Jason Zepin (1), Patrick O'Connor (1), Mike Dauoudi (1)).

SFT 13 (Stanley Ebert (3), Athina Hoffman (1), Matthew Symon (2), Thari Ibrahim (3), Vincent Polk (1), Luis Alvarez (1), Khalil Haddad (1), Khalid (1), Getty 5 (Ahmed Al Najjar (1), Robby Bhatia (1), Yousef Al Najjar (1), Ahmed Mokhtar (1), Ramsey Hall (1)).

M&M's 10 (Yaseem Ali (1), Andrew Colwell (1), Ryan Fox (1), Mahmoud Rasheed (1), Ziad Sakleh (1), Nawaf Al Hamad (2), Rahman Al Sakon (2), Sami Bebechani (1)). UAS 8 (Amir Gul (1), George Georgopolis (1), Ossani (1), Javid (1), Tarek Al Shamir (1), Richard Fueller (1), Steve Georgopolis (1), Nader Al Ajami (1), Mohammed Shaaban (1)).

Jahangir routs Kenyon

MADRID, March 4, (Reuters): Former king of squash Jahangir Khan badly hurt his non-playing hand in a collision with Britain's Phil Kenyon, but trounced him in the second round of the Spanish Open yesterday.

Pakistani Jahangir, seeded two, was shaken by the clash and lost the rhythm that had put him 7-0 up in the second game after winning the first in just eight minutes, but he went on to win 9-0-9-2.

Jahangir now faces Briton Del Harris, who defeated Australian Adam Schreiber 9-3-7-9 10-8-9-6.

World number one Jansher Khan, who deposited compatriot Jahangir from his top spot at the turn of the year, was on unbeatable form, and easily knocked out Australia's Brett Martin.

Reaching everything in sight and hardly making a mistake, Jansher won 9-1-9-3 in just 35 minutes.

He will now play fifth seed Rodney Martin of Australia, who ousted compatriot Chris Donnelly in straight games.

Third seed Chris Dittmar of Australia clocked up the fastest win so far in the tournament as he crushed compatriot Tristan Nancarrow, who barely put any

resistance, 9-0-9-3-1.

He earned a quarterfinal place against Chris Robertson of Australia, who knocked out Briton Stuart Hailstone in four games.

Fourth seed and 1986 world champion Rose Norman of New Zealand suffered a setback as he lost the second game 9-1 to Australia's Agustín Adarraga, but recovered to go through with a 9-21-9-0-9-6 scoreline that did not reflect the hard game.

Norman now faces Umar Hayat Khan, who beat fellow Pakistani Zarak Jahan Khan in four games.

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Pernfors stuns Edborg for quarterfinals

INDIAN WELLS, Calif., March 4, (Reuters): Mikael Pernfors of Sweden upset top seeded compatriot Stefan Edborg yesterday to advance to the quarterfinal round in the \$702,500 Champions Cup tennis tournament.

Pernfors, seeded 15th, defeated Edborg, 3-6 6-3 6-2 marking his third victory in four meetings over the world's number three.

Fought
In other third round matches, second seeded Miloslav Mecir of Czechoslovakia, third seeded Boris Becker of West Germany and fourth seeded Australian Pat Cash all advanced.

Pernfors fought back from a 6-3 first set deficit using fierce topspin returns which Edborg failed to handle.

At 5-3 in the second set and serving, Pernfors staved off five break points before clinching the set 6-3 when Edborg hit a backhand wide.

The number one seed appeared demoralised after that, falling into frequent errors as



Becker: crushed Fitzgerald

Graf and McNeil score contrasting victories

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, March 4, (Reuters): Top seed Steffi Graf of West Germany and third seeded American Lori McNeil both posted victories yesterday and will meet in the semifinal round of the \$200,000 US women's hardcourt championships.

Graf, the top player in the world, polished off number six seed Nathalie Tauziat of France 6-3-6-2 in a 50-minute match while McNeil, ranked world 10, defeated fifth seeded Nathalie Zvereva of the Soviet Union 3-6 6-3-7-5.

In their last outing, Graf defeated McNeil in three sets in the semifinals of last September's US Open.

"I don't think I was patient enough," Graf said. "I know today's match against McNeil will be tough. I will have to serve

and hit good backhands."

In the final set of the two hour match, McNeil led 5-2 when the 16-year-old Zvereva brought the score to 5-5. McNeil then took the final two games on a service break to earn her spot in the semifinals.

In other play, Bulgaria's Katerina Maleeva, the fourth seed, beat Japan's Etsuko Inoue 1-6-6-2 6-3 while Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia defeated seventh seeded American Patty Fendick 6-4-7-6 (7-3).

Both players held service in the final set after 5-5 which sent it into a 12-point tiebreaker. Fendick, on her first full year on the pro tour, was down 6-1 in the tiebreaker and brought it to 6-3 but Sukova took the next two points to win the match.

Sukova and Maleeva will play in the other semifinal.

SPORTS

NEW ZEALAND SHUT TOURISTS OUT WITH 451 IN TEST

Crowe hammers England for 143

WELLINGTON, March 4. (Reuters): New Zealand battered throughout the second day of the third and final Test today reaching 451 for five wickets, virtually shutting England out of the game.

A Martin Crowe century and fine contributions by Ken Rutherford and Mark Greatbatch were the highlights of the first innings that rarely scored faster than two runs an over through the two days.

At the close, Rutherford was on 91 and John Bracewell on 43. Resumed

The crowd was rewarded for its patience by a sparkling unbroken sixth wicket partnership of 115, with 95 runs scored in the last hour when England took its third new ball.

New Zealand had resumed at 192 for three and lost two wickets for 266 in the day.

England took its second wicket just before tea when Crowe was out lbw to England captain and part-time bowler Mike Gatting for 143. It was his ninth Test century.

He put on a record 155 for the fourth wicket with Greatbatch, surpassing by one run the previous New Zealand record against England by John Wright and Jeff Crowe.



Crowe (left) is congratulated by Greatbatch after the former reached his century. (Reuters wirephoto)

Crowe told reporters after his innings he was annoyed to be taken out and had been looking

to bat through the day. "I've been to hell and back with my form," he said.

Greatbatch struggled to time the ball on the pitch which continued to play slowly and assist the spinners with slow turn. He followed up his century in the second Test, his first, with 68 before he edged one from off-spinner John Emburey to Phillip Defreitas at cover.

The best batting of the day came from Rutherford, who attacked, cutting and driving the perfect timing. He reached his third half-century in Tests and his highest Test score, and if New Zealand bats on looks likely to score his maiden Test century.

Bracewell was slow initially but in the last hour he dominated the attack with strong pulling to mid-wicket.

England's fielding woes continued. Rutherford was dropped on one by substitute Bill Athey off Hemmings and again on 69 when the ball went between first slip Gatting and wicketkeeper Bruce French.

Martyn Moxon dropped Bracewell on five at first slip off Defreitas and the batsman was dropped again on 22 by Tim Robinson at mid-wicket off David Capel.

Martin Crowe had been dropped a straightforward by John Emburey on the first day when Crowe had made just six.

England took the second new ball first thing in the morning despite main strike bowler Graham Dilley being injured with a swollen knee.

The England bowlers contained the batsmen but they failed to beat the bat very often. Defreitas bowled eight overs for only six runs in the morning and he was the best of the England bowlers today.

Hemmings and Emburey bowled long and accurate spells but they did not extract significant turn and they did not look as if they would break through.

Scoreboard

NEW ZEALAND first innings
(overnight 192 for three)

J. Wright c Fairbrother b Capel	36
T. Franklin lbw Defreitas	14
R. Vance run out	47
M. Crowe lbw Gatting	143
Greatbatch c Defreitas b Emburey	68
K. Rutherford not out	91
J. Bracewell not out	43
Extras (lb-9)	9
Total (for five wickets)	451

Fall of wickets: 1-33 2-79 3-132 4-287 5-336.

To bat: L. Smith, S. Boock, D. Morrison, E. Chatfield.

Bowling to date: Dilley 11-1-36-0, Defreitas 43.1-21-69-1, Capel 33-6-110-1, Emburey 45-5-15-99-1, Hemmings 45-15-107-0, Gatting 6-1-21-1.



Botham (left) was reported by umpire Robin Bellhouse for breach of the behaviour code. (Reuters wirephoto)

Botham fined \$350 for using bad language

MELBOURNE, March 4. (Reuters): England all-rounder Ian Botham was fined \$350 yesterday after admitting using offensive language during the match between Queensland and Victoria at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Wednesday.

Victorian Cricket Association commissioner Walter Jona imposed the penalty after a short hearing.

Botham was reported for breaching sections of the code of behaviour dealing with bad language and bringing the game into disrepute.

After the hearing, Jona said that Botham had claimed extenuating circumstances arising from crowd provocation which was highly offensive.

He said the umpires had confirmed that Botham had been provoked by a section of the crowd.

"However, the words used by Ian Botham were indisputably clearly audible and specifically directed. They were indecent and totally unacceptable on the cricket field under any circumstances," Jona said.

He added if there had been no provocation, the fine would have been much higher.

Jona said that he had taken into consideration Botham's unblemished record as a Queensland player in the current season.

Meanwhile, Western Australia dismissed South Australia for 331 just before the close in their Sheffield Shield match today, and now need just 36 runs for victory tomorrow which would give them home advantage in the final against Queensland.

They still trail by 90 with eight second innings wickets left after New South Wales were bowled out for 460, Mark Taylor hitting 144 and Mark Waugh 116.

REGUA, Portugal, March 4. (Reuters): Finland's Markku Alen stunningly won five of six special stages in today's first section of the third leg of the Portuguese rally, but works teammate Massimo Biasion of Italy extended his overall lead.

Alen, driving a Lancia Integrale, has climbed from last to eighth place while Biasion, who has been in front in his integrals since the 2,100-km race began on Tuesday, extended his commanding lead to four minutes 26 seconds.

Italian Alessandro Fiorio is second and Frenchman Yves Loubet has dropped to third, both in Lancia Delias.

Alen, the pre-race favourite who has won in Portugal five times, has fought furiously to make up a 20-minute penalty on

South Australia made a solid comeback through Andrew Hilditch (59), Glenn Bishop (55), David Hookes (65) and Wayne Phillips (59) but are staring defeat in the face after making only 138 in their first innings. Western Australia made 434.

Western Australia were level with Queensland at the head of the Shield table before this final round. The first two teams will play in the final starting on March 18, with home advantage going to the top side.

Queensland's hopes of hosting the final were dented by a grafting 116 from Victorian opener Gary Watts, his third first class century since he made a comeback last month after four years out of the team.

Victoria were 253 for four in their second innings, giving them an overall lead of 300 with one day to play. Botham spent most of the day in the dressing room after he pulled several muscles in his lower back while batting yesterday.

"The injury is still very painful," Botham said. "It's an inflammation between two discs in the lower vertebrae. Specialists have told me that my career as a fast bowler has caused abnormal wear."

In the other Shield match, a gamble by New South Wales skipper Greg Dyer to throw his spinners into the attack with the new ball paid off as former Test all-rounder Greg Matthews dismissed both openers to leave Tasmania in trouble on 43 for two.

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Alen, the pre-race favourite who has won in Portugal five times, has fought furiously to make up a 20-minute penalty on

the first day which left him last in a field of 100 drivers. He is now 12 minutes six seconds behind the leader.

However, Biasion seems set to triumph, and he told reporters at the end of yesterday's second leg he was hoping to keep his advantage but would not take unnecessary risks.

"I don't need to attack and I intend to drive a safe race until we arrive at Estoril," he said.

The third leg finishes in Viseu after 464-km and 11 special stages. The drivers return tomorrow to the Estoril Autodrome where the rally ends.

Leading overall placings after first section of the third leg (provisional times):

Qatar hold Kuwait to draw
KUWAIT continued with its long series of draws with arch-rival Qatar when the two teams played to a 1-1 draw on Thursday in the 9th Gulf Football Championship being held in Saudi Arabia.

Salah Al Hasawi put Kuwait ahead in the 24th minute but Qatar's Hasan Juhair scored the equaliser seconds before the half-time whistle.

In the other game held on Thursday, United Arab Emirates beat Bahrain 2-0. Both the goals were scored in the first half.

First
In the only game played yesterday, Oman surprised favourites Iraq by holding them to a 1-1 draw.

The first match of the tournament, which was opened by King Fahd Bin Abdulaziz on Wednesday, was between Saudi Arabia and Oman and ended 2-0 in the former's favour.

Today, Kuwait meet UAE while Saudi Arabia meet Qatar. UAE and Saudi Arabia lead the standings at the moment with two points each.

SPORTS BRIEFS

World Cup
RIO DE JANEIRO, March 4. (Reuters): The Brazilian Football Association (CBF) criticised a decision by the International Football Federation (FIFA) to announce the host for the 1994 World Cup soccer finals on July 1 rather than on June 30 as previously scheduled.

Barbados win
KINGSTON, Jamaica, March 4. (Reuters): Barbados scrambled two runs off the last ball to beat Jamaica by one wicket and win the West Indies one-day championship for the third time yesterday.

Super Cup
SANTOS, Brazil, March 6. (Reuters): Santos and Racing of Argentina played to a scoreless draw in a South American Super Cup Group Two soccer match in this Brazilian port city last night.

Terry Venables
CARDIFF, March 4. (Reuters): Wales, foiled in their bid to recruit Brian Clough as their new national soccer team manager, now have their sights set on Tottenham boss Terry Venables.

Johan Cruyff
COLOGNE, West Germany, March 4. (Reuters): Johan Cruyff, strongly tipped to take over from Luis Aragones as Barcelona's coach said on Wednesday night he would not be joining the Spanish soccer club.

Team tennis
ZURICH, March 4. (Reuters): Petr Korda gave Czechoslovakia a good start against Britain in the European men's team tennis championships group one on Thursday with a 6-4 6-3 win over Andrew Castle in the first singles. The Czechs later won two more matches.

World golf
SYDNEY, March 4. (Reuters): World number one Greg Norman may not be able to represent Australia in the 1988 World Cup of Golf which will be staged at the Royal Melbourne Course from December 8 to 11.

Salonika triumph
LONDON, March 4. (Reuters): After trailing by 10 points in the first half, Greek club Aris Salonika snatched a 100-98 victory over Saturn Cologne in the latest round of group quarterfinal European men's Champion Clubs' Cup matches.

Nelson Piquet
RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, March 4. (AP): Three-time world champion Nelson Piquet began testing the new Lotus-Honda Formula 1 racer here Wednesday in preparation for the season-opening Brazilian Grand Prix next month.

Barry McGuigan
BELFAST, Northern Ireland, March 4. (AP): One of boxing's most publicised partnerships in recent years ended in bitter recrimination Wednesday when Barry McGuigan, former World Featherweight champion, officially severed his links with his ex-manager, Barney Eastwood.

Blathlon title
CHAMONIX, France, March 4. (AP): Anne Elvebak, a 21-year-old from Voss, Norway, won the 10-kilometre world women's biathlon title Wednesday with a top performance in shooting and cross-country skiing.

Chinese stars
BELGRADE, March 4. (Reuters): China's first sporting exports, international soccer stars Liu Haiguang and Jia Xiuquan, became instant celebrities when they arrived here to join Yugoslav First Division club Partizan Belgrade.

Title fight
PESARO, Italy, March 4. (Reuters): Mike McCallum challenges Zaire-born Italian Sumbu Kalambay for the World Boxing Association (WBA) middleweight title tomorrow, confident that he can extend his unbeaten record to 33 fights.

Romanian defector
OTTAWA, March 4. (Reuters): A man who is said to be the coach of the Romanian bobsled team at the 1988 Olympic Winter Games and who sought political asylum will be allowed to stay in Canada, immigration officials said yesterday.

English classics
LONDON, March 4. (Reuters): Entries for this year's Epsom Derby and Oaks, two of the five English classic races, have dropped significantly — and owners blame higher fees. The Derby, which for the first time carries guaranteed minimum prize money of £500,000 (£580,000), has attracted 174 entries compared with 208 last year. The Oaks has 135 entries — 48 fewer than in 1987.

Pakistan arrive in Caribbean

KINGSTON, Jamaica, March 4. (Reuters): Pakistan's cricketers arrived in the Caribbean on Wednesday minus leg-spinner Abdul Qadir, who is expected to be a key weapon in their three-test series against the West Indies.

Manager Intikhab Alam told reporters that Qadir was suffering from a minor back ailment and had stayed in London for treatment.

"He is coming on Saturday," Intikhab said in brief remarks at the airport, arousing memories of Pakistan's tour of England last year when the spinner's continually promised arrival failed to materialise until just before the second Test.

West Indies captain Viv Richards acknowledged in an interview that Qadir could be a dangerman for his team.

Fit

"He has done lots of things to us in the past but he is only one man," he said.

It will be only the third tour of the Caribbean for Pakistan and their first since 1977. There was also a 19-year gap between the first two visits.

"The team is fit and we expect to give the West Indies a run for their money," said captain Imran Khan, persuaded out of a brief retirement for this series.

The Pakistanis open their tour on Sunday with a four-day match against the President's XI at Kingston's Sabina Park. They are due to have their first test sessions on Thursday.

The touring side will also play two other four-day games and five one-day internationals.

Zia to open Dubai golf course

PAKISTAN President Zia-ul-Haq, using a golden golf club delivered by a parachutist, will bring Dubai's unique grass championship course officially into play on Tuesday.

When the parachutist drops from a helicopter at the Emirates Golf Club, he will be carrying a golden tee-peg from which President Zia will hit the shot to open the course in the traditional manner.

At the invitation of Sheikh Maktoum bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Crown Prince of Dubai and Deputy Prime Minister of the UAE, President Zia has happily agreed to inaugurate the game's first tournament venue in the Gulf.

Along
A keen golfer, President Zia will be welcomed at the course by Sheikh Maktoum, along with Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Minister of Finance and Industry, and Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Minister of Defence.

President Zia will then be greeted by the crown princes from the six other emirates. Also in attendance will be members of the board of governors of the Emirates Golf Club, including its chairman, Sheikh Butti bin Maktoum Al Maktoum, and Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, chairman of Emirates, along with other dignitaries.

England players warned to behave

LONDON, March 4. (Reuters): England's cricketers, at the centre of dissent and indiscipline on tour in recent months, have been warned to behave or face the prospect of being dropped.

The Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB), who held their traditional pre-season meeting here yesterday, made it clear that anyone who steps out of line in future will be dropped and might never play for England again.

Following unsavoury on-field incidents in Pakistan, Australia and New Zealand during the last three months, the TCCB have acted to safeguard the game's image and reputation.

TCCB chief executive Alan Smith said after the meeting at Lord's: "If you don't behave you

don't play — that's the message the board wants to come out to the players.

Concerned
"The England selectors have been directed to take every bit as much notice of behaviour as from this season."

"The board is very concerned about dissent in particular, and discipline in general. It is very important for English cricket at all levels that there should be no introduction of indiscipline."

"If there have been incidents they must not be repeated. The selectors will take responsibility for the conduct of the England team throughout the season."

Smith added: "Counties have their part to play but obviously the England team is the one

which is placed under closest scrutiny. Standards at the top are reflected all the way down to club and school level."

England's tour of Pakistan at the end of last year and their current visit to Australia and New Zealand have been marked by dissent and indiscipline.

Unsatisfactory umpiring provoked many of the incidents, in which opener Chris Broad refused to walk when given out at Lahore, and captain Mike Gatting was involved in a public row with umpire Shakoor Rana at Faisalabad.

England's tour management fined Broad for knocking over his stumps after being dismissed in the Bicentennial Test in Sydney, and also fast bowler Gra-

ham Dilley for swearing in the first Test in Christchurch.

The TCCB is clearly concerned that companies who put huge sums of money into the game might take their cash elsewhere if cricket continues to present an image of bad behaviour.

Smith said: "We have been successful with sponsors over the years and I feel sure that one reason for it is the good image the game has."

Trying

It was also announced that the board would examine the possibility of trying to stage the next World Cup, in either 1991 or 1992, after losing out to India and Pakistan's joint bid last year.

Australia score fourth victory

SYDNEY, March 4. (Reuters): Australian captain Geoff Parker belted a whirlwind century off the International Cricket Conference Associates' attack as his team recorded their fourth straight win in the World Youth Cup yesterday.

Parker slammed 103 off 102 balls as Australia posted a tournament-high 303 for eight from 50 overs.

In reply the ICC were bundled out for 126 from 44.2 overs.

In Barmra, England collapsed to 102 all out off 42 overs with Sri Lanka medium pacers Chandika Hathurusinghe (three for

36) and Chaminda Fernando (three for 29) the chief destroyers. Sri Lanka clinched a surprise victory on 103 for six with Ajith Alirajah posting a top score of 32.

At Mildura, Pakistan crashed to their first defeat in the face of a potent West Indies attack.

After the West Indies had made a modest 121, Pakistan were all out for 101 from 43 overs.

In the other match at Loxton, India returned to winning form with a 44-run victory over New Zealand.

Batting first, India made 164 with skipper Mylvahanan Sentilathan top scoring with 52.

Then leg spinner Narendra Hirwani took three for 26 as New Zealand were dismissed for 120.

Results
In Barmra: England 102 all out in 42 overs (N. Hussain 35, Fernando three for 29), Sri Lanka 103 for six in 35.5 overs (A. Alirajah 32), Sri Lanka won by four wickets.

In Westworth: Australia 303 for eight in 50 overs (G. Parker 103, J. Scuderi 66), ICC Associates 126 all out in 44.2 overs (McFadyen four for 26), Australia won by 177 runs.

In Mildura: West Indies 121 all out in 49 overs (Mustafiz Ahmed three for 28), Pakistan 101 all out in 43.4 overs (Skeete three for 25), West Indies won by 20 runs.

In Loxton: India 164 all out in 46.3 overs (M. Sentilathan 52, Gale three for 30), New Zealand 120 all out in 45.5 overs (Roberts 36, Hirwani three for 26), India won by 44 runs.

Glamorgan to play Yorkshire

LONDON, March 4. (Reuters): Glamorgan County Cricket Club open their centenary season with a game against Yorkshire — in Spain.

The Welsh club fly-out on March 26 for a pre-season friendly on an artificial pitch at La Manga, where the two sides hope to enjoy some sunshine before they embark on more serious fixtures in the English County Championship.

Glamorgan captain Hugh Morris said: "We want to be fully fit for the early matches and we think an early week's extra training in the sun will be of benefit."

Sustained
"What we did was to sign Jose Ribalta as an insurance policy in the event that Tubbs be injured his shoulder or sustained any other injury that might put the fight in jeopardy."

"We did not sign Ribalta because of any weight problem clause in our contract with Tubbs," Cayton said.

"The March 21 fight cannot be postponed because we have a commitment to fight Michael Spinks and the Tubbs-Tyson fight is going to take place."

Wadkins ahead in Open

MIAMI, March 4. (Reuters): Bobby Wadkins gained the first-round lead in the \$1 million Doral Open golf tournament yesterday with a five-under-par 67, but among those close on his heels was fellow American Jack Nicklaus.

The 48-year-old Nicklaus posted a four-under-par 68 and was tied for the runner-up spot with Chip Beck, who won the Los Angeles Open last week, Larry Nelson and former Doral winner Tom Kite.

Tommy Nakajima of Japan was with a group of six players at three-under-par 69. With him

were Raymond Floyd, Gil Morgan, Bruce Lietzke, Ed Fiori and John Mahaffey.

Bobby Wadkins, brother Lanny won this event last year but he opened yesterday with a two-over-par 74.

"Lanny started with a 75 last year and you, so you can't count him out. I'm happy to keep the name Wadkins at the top of the leader board here," Bobby said.

Wadkins had six birdies and only one bogey in his round. "I was able to keep it in play all day and that was the key since it was so windy," he said. "I just made certain not to make any stupid mistakes."

Possibility
Ribalta was quoted in a published report as saying, "the way things look now, there's a good possibility I'll be fighting Tyson. I'll be very disappointed if I don't wind up fighting him."

"He's going to be disappointed," Cayton said.

Cayton also said that Ribalta will be "paid a substantial fee" for serving as insurance that there will be a fight March 21.

"Mike Tyson is a hero to the Japanese, and they want to see him fight," Cayton said.

Tubbs will not be replaced, says Tyson's manager

NEW YORK, March 4. (Reuters): The co-manager of undisputed heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson denied yesterday published reports stating American challenger Tony Tubbs would be replaced if he weighed over 235-pounds for his scheduled March 21 title fight in Tokyo against Tyson.

Bill Cayton, co-manager with Jim Jacobs, told Reuters: "Tubbs is signed to fight Tyson and he will fight Tyson as scheduled."

Sustained
"What we did was to sign Jose Ribalta as an insurance policy in the event that Tubbs be injured his shoulder or sustained any other injury that might put the fight in jeopardy."

"We did not sign Ribalta because of any weight problem clause in our contract with Tubbs," Cayton said.

"The March 21 fight cannot be postponed because we have a commitment to fight Michael Spinks and the Tubbs-Tyson fight is going to take place."

Tyson has already fought Ribalta and knocked him out in the 10th round in a 1986 match in New Jersey.

In 1986, Tubbs said he injured his shoulder and pulled out of a scheduled title fight against former World Boxing Association (WBA) heavyweight champion Tim Witherspoon a few days before the fight was slated to take place.

Cayton, who is in hospital recovering from a heart operation last week, added: "We believe Tubbs will be ready. He is an excellent fighter, very, very competitive and he will put on a good fight."

Cayton said that he understood that Tubbs, who is in training in California and will leave for Japan tomorrow, "is in excellent shape and will come into the Tyson fight much trimmer than usual."

Tubbs has been troubled throughout his career with a weight problem.

Cayton also said there had been a problem involving an irrevocable letter of credit for \$500,000 from promoter Don King to Tubbs, but "the letter of credit should be in Tubbs' hands by Friday."

Tubbs' gross purse will be \$915,000 and his net purse will be \$550,000, including a \$50,000 bonus for being in good physical condition, Cayton said.

Tyson, who is in Japan, reportedly will make \$10 million.

Possibility
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"He's going to be disappointed," Cayton said.